FBIS DAILY REPORT

Middle East & North Africa

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FATAH DELEGATION LEAVES KUWAIT FOR MOSCOW

NC2710000Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 27 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 July--A delegation representing the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah--left Kuwait for Moscow early this morning for a first visit by a Fatah delegation to the Soviet Union. The delegation is led by Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin.

The delegation includes Central Committee members Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu as-Sa'id; and Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih. The delegation will hold discussions with the Soviet leaders on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and the conditions of the Palestinian revolution.

Prior to the delegation's departure, Abu Mazin said that this visit by an independent delegation of the Fatah movement and at such a level does not alter the fact that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Abu Mazin denies that there is a relationship between the delegation's visit to Moscow and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent stopover in the Soviet capital. He also denies that the delegation will raise specific Palestinian demands during the visit.

Abu Mazin expresses the hope that the visit will produce positive results vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause because the aim of the visit is to get to know Moscow's views on current events in the Arab world.

Meanwhile, in a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, affirms that the Palestinian cause is facing a real crisis and says: "We will explain this to the Soviet leaders." Abu Iyad denies that there is any thought of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile. He also says that the Palestinian revolution pays 75 million Lebanese pounds annually to the families of the martyrs and that the Palestinian revolution is not the richest revolution in the world.

JANA DESCRIBES TERMS FOR AS-SADAT'S TRIAL

LD2710000Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Beirut, JANA--The JANA correspondent in Beirut has learned that the list of witnesses who will give evidence to the Arab people's court which will try As-Sadat for his pan-Arab and national crimes will be a great surprise even to As-Sadat himself, sources of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress has stressed.

The Information Committee in charge of preparations for the trial of As-Sadat had met at JANA's office in Beirut within the framework of preparations for the trial, which will open in Baghdad on 1 August. The meeting was attended by members of the committee composed of the directors of the offices of NANA, INA, and APS in Beirut; the secretary of Central Information of the Popular Front-General Command, the chief editor of AS-SUMUD magazine and the chief editor of the Lebanese AS-SAFIR. The committee decided to extend an invitation to a large number of correspondents of newspapers, magazines, world and Arab news agencies and radio and television to attend this historic event, which is considered to be the first of its kind in our contemporary history.

BAHRAIN

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS BAHRAIN ABIDES BY OPEC DECISIONS

JN251025Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 26 July--Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Bahraini minister of finance and national economy, has stated that if the OPEC states agree during their next conference on a new oil price equation or if these states increase oil prices, Bahrain will abide by the decision as soon as it becomes effective even though Bahrain is not an OPEC member.

In a statement published in the newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ today, the Bahraini minister explained that the cause of the decline in the dollar's value is due to the OPEC members' tendency to dispense with the dollar as an authorized currency for oil pricing and to link oil prices with a basket of currencies. The cause of the deterioration is also due to the presence of the huge surplus in the Japanese balance of payments, on the one hand, and to a continued deficit in the U.S. balance of payments, on the other.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM BELGRADE CONFERENCE

JN270842Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0810 GMT 27 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 27 July--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah returned to Kuwait from Belgrade early this morning after participating in the meetings of the nonalined foreign ministers' conference, which started there the day before yesterday.

Shaykh Saban addressed the conference last night. In his address, the Kuwaiti foreign minister asserted that the situation in the Middle East continues to constitute a big and direct threat to world peace and security due to Israel's intransigence and evasion in implementing the UN resolutions.

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON DOLLAR'S DECLINE

LD241241Y Beirut EVENTS in English 28 Jul 78 pp 38, 29 LD

[Salim Salem interview with Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa as-Sabah in Geneva "following the recent OPEC ministerial meeting"]

[Text] Like other OPEC producers, Kuwait has suffered from the declining value of the dollar and the lowered demand for imported oil due to the present surplus on world markets. Asked about Kuwait's current limit on oil output, Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa said: "When we set the level of production at two million barrels a day we took two basic points into consideration: The world's energy needs and our own economic and development requirements. While the fall of the dollar has had a big impact on our revenue, this does not mean we will increase production to compensate for this loss."

Q: What about the budget and development projects?

A: Revenue from a daily production of two million barrels is not only used for balancing government accounts, for there are many other requirements. We are not prepared to produce two million barrels of oil a day unless there is a world demand for it. Otherwise, production tends to go down to the minimum level.

Q: When the Council of Ministers specified an upper limit on production of two million barrels a day, was it because Kuwait wished to conserve oil supplies, or was it to meet the emirate's financial needs, while bearing the world's energy needs in mind?

A: If every country concerned itself only with producing to fulfill its financial requirements and balance its budget, the world today would be suffering from a serious energy shortage. Production is not calculated only on the basis of the budget: We need this much money and thus we produce this much oil. There are also international needs and oil reserves to consider. The world's oil needs will continue long after OPEC's reserves are depleted. Stepping up production is as much against the interests of the industrial nations as it is against the interests of the producer countries. We produce much more oil than we require ourselves, and we do this as a sacrifice in view of the needs of the industrial nations and the rest of the world. This sacrifice must be reciprocated by an equal gesture from the industrial nations; by helping the development projects of the producer countries, which are in any case developing nations.

Q: It has been repeated recently that Saudi Arabia has increased its production, and that there are efforts on the part of OPEC to convince Saudi Arabia to return to lower production levels. What is your opinion of this?

A: I have not heard that Saudi Arabia has increased production, nor have I heard of such efforts within OPEC, because the organisation does not interefere in production. Setting production levels is the prerogative of each individual state. Figures available now do not give the impression that Saudi Arabia has raised production. If we compare its production figures for the first quarter of this year with the same period last year we find a decrease and not an increase.

Q: If the production of Saudi Arabia has decreased, is this because the market has reached saturation or as a result of other factors?

A: Changes in production levels are in reality to safeguard the interests of the nations of the world and to maintain levels within the borders of demand and supply so that there is neither an acute shortage or a large surplus upsetting the international economy. I only wish the industrial nations could appreciate this sacrifice on our side and make an effort to decrease consumption so that we will not have to carry the burden of increased production.

Q: The decision to reduce production to an average of two million barrels a day was taken a long time ago, and price increases have compensated for the drop in production from the previous level of three million barrels a day. But the decision to lower production was made before the dollar crisis. So does not the subsequent increase in revenue affect the decisions of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Oil in determining how much oil to produce?

A: When you read the speech of his highness the amir, calling for control of expenditure irrespective of whether there is an increase or decrease in revenue, the position becomes clear. The policy which the amir has laid down requires an end to projects which disturb the balance of the economy. This means curbing expenditure by dispensing with projects which are not considered as vital to the economy and the welfare of the Kuwaiti citizen as housing, education and health. No matter what happens to the dollar, the projects will continue.

Q: Then, Your Excellency, are you saying that doing away with some previously planned projects has no relation to the dollar crisis and the lowering of the national income?

A: Not at all--we are now working towards a new plan. The dollar crisis has certainly affected our income in Kuwait, and it may have given us a stronger incentive to rethink many unnecessary expenditures, but the dollar crisis is not the direct reason.

Q: What about rumours that some producer countries are selling below the official price, or giving specific reductions to promote the sales of their oil?

A: I do not deny that certain reductions are being offered by some countries, but I can assure you that Kuwait in particular has not offered any reductions in the price of her oil. There may be some countries giving discounts, but this takes place in a very limited form. The evidence for this is that all the OPEC countries produce far less than their maximum capacity; so if large scale price reductions were being offered we would witness a sudden increase in production in some countries. This has not taken place. This does not mean that I give the idea of reducing oil prices my blessings. On the contrary--any reductions must be discussed and agreed by OPEC as a whole.

The squandering of energy resources is not in the interests of the consumer countries in the long run, because depleting a vital resource needed for energy and industry before an alternative is found will lead to disaster. An economically viable alternative will not be found in a year or two--it may take more than ten years. Thus, it is in the interests of the world to restrict its consumption and to raise the price of petrol. An increase in price will force all to restrict their level of consumption.

Q: Then increasing prices will benefit both sides?

A: Without doubt, and this is far better than continuing consumption at present levels.

SAUDI ARABIA

IRAQI ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGES TO KING KHALID

JN2617162 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and planning minister, and envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, has delivered messages from President al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

This was done during the envoy's meeting with King Khalid in At-Ta'if today.

SAUDI, JORDANIAN CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICIALS MEET

LD2312462 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Riyadh, 23 July--The deputy governor of Riyadh, Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, today received Maj Gen Khalid at-Tarawinah, director general of Jordanian civil defense, and the accompanying delegation now on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, Maj Gen Kamal Saraj ad-Din, assistant director of public security for civil defense, and Maj Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami, assistant director of public security for operations affairs, held a meeting with Maj Gen Khalid at-Tarawinah at which a discussion on possible cooperation between the two establishments took place.

YEMEN--PDRY

ISMA'IL SAYS RUBAYYI' 'ALI INVOLVED IN AL-GHASHMI KILLING

LD261842Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organisation-National Front [UPONF] Central Committee, has stressed the great importance of the support being provided to Democratic Yemen by nationalist and democratic forces both in the Arab states and in the world. In an interview for the Iraqi newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, he said the condemnation by these forces of the imperialist and reactionary conspiracies directed against our Yemeni people and the program of revolutionary changes in our country has made our enemies realize that the PDRY is not alone in its just struggle.

The brother secretary general described in his interview with the newspaper the schismatic activity that Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali had engaged in and his departure from the principle of collective leadership several years ago. He explained that the opportunist activity of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali was not exposed and that the confidence that he enjoyed in the UPONF did not afford an opportunity to reveal his criminal designs. He said Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali's opportunism was clearly manifested in his attitude toward the states of the socialist family and his efforts and those of his supporters to sow the seeds of doubt in the effectiveness of economic and other forms of cooperation between the socialist countries and our country. He explained that Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali had had a hand in the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi.

YEMEN--YAR

SALIH RECEIVES CONGRATULATORY CABLE FROM PRC LEADER

JN261404Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received the following cable:

His Excellency Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR:

On behalfof the people and Government of the People's Republic of China and in my name, I would like to convey to Your Excellency and to the YAR people and government the warmest congratulations on your assumption of the YAR presidency. I wish Your Excellency continuous success in fighting colonialism and defending your national independence and sovereignty. I wish your country continuous prosperity and your people progress. I hope that the friendship and cooperation between the PRC and the YAR will continue to develop.

[Signed] Yeh Chien-ying, chairman of the PRC National People's Congress.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETS UNDER AS-SADAT

NC2611077 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 26 July--At 1100 today the National Security Council held a meeting in Alexandria under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, ASU Central Committee Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Deputy Prime Minister for Presidential Affairs Hasan at-Tuhami, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Interior Minister Maj Gen Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il and the director of General Intelligence.

Israeli Military Delegation Dismissed

NC2622107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2152 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 26 July--The Egyptian National Security Council today decided that there is no longer any need for retaining the Israeli military delegation in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, tonight sent the following cable to Israeli Minister of Defense Gen 'Ezer Weizman:

I regret to inform you that the National Security Council today decided that there is no longer any need for retaining the Israeli military delegation in the Arab Republic of Egypt. We have made arrangements for the delegation to return to Lydda airport in Israel early on 27 July aboard an Egyptian Boeing 737.

MENA has learned that the National Security Council adopted this decision after it was apparent that the Israeli Government's policy which the Israeli prime minister and the Knesset outlined shows that Menahem Begin does not want peace.

Kamil Makes Statement

NC2617587 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 26 July--Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stressed that there is no truth to the Israeli Government announcement that a new Egyptian plan was presented to Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman during his meeting with President as-Sadat in Salzburg. The foreign minister said that the only Egyptian plan was that presented for discussion at the Leeds talks in London. The foreign minister said that Egypt is prepared to resume direct contacts with Israel at any level to be agreed upon provided the Israeli side shows readiness to give up its wornout concepts and is genuinely willing to go along with the peace efforts.

The Egyptian foreign minister made this statement after the National Security Council meeting which was held in Alexandria under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

In his statement to reporters at the end of the National Security Council meeting, which lasted more than 4 hours, the foreign minister said that the National Security Council reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East problem in light of the president's visit to Austria and the Leeds meeting, which was held at the request of President Carter. I have submitted a complete report on the Leeds Castle meetings, he said.

The foreign minister said that the Egyptian stand, as affirmed by the president before in his speech to the Knesset during his historic visit to Jerusalem, is that we are prepared to establish peace and neighborly relations and to make arrangements to guarantee the security of all parties. However, territory and sovereignty must be completely excluded from any negotiations because these are not subject to bargaining.

In his statement the foreign minister said: We have been briefed on the Israeli prime minister's statement in which he expresses his desire to visit Egypt. I would like to assert that Egypt, which adopted the initiative in the current peace efforts, continues to seek the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. Egypt is prepared to resume direct contacts at any level to be agreed upon provided the Israeli side shows readiness to give up its wornout concepts and is genuinely willing to go along with peace efforts.

The foreign minister added: However, Mr Begin's recent statements show that, while he would like to resume the contacts, he adopts certain stands which make these contacts a waste of time.

In his statement the foreign minister said that, as they have been clarified by Egypt, the bases of peace are those which are compatible with the UN resolutions and with righteousness and justice, adding that the sole obstacle in the way to achieving peace and security for all the parties is the stands that are being adopted by Begin's government--stands which run counter to international law and international covenants.

The foreign minister added: The methods to which Mr Begin's government resorts include the creation of a kind of confusion and procrastination by alleging that an Egyptian plan exists and that it was conveyed by General Weizman following his meeting with President as-Sadat in Salzburg.

The foreign minister said: I want to affirm that there is no Egyptian plan, except for the plan which was submitted for discussion during the Leeds meetings. This plan was made public and is aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem on the basis of Israel's withdrawal and the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights.

Upon concluding his statement, the foreign minister was asked what his statement meant as far as the resumption of direct negotiations was concerned. The minister said: I must leave immediately to catch the plane leaving for Amman.

Following the meeting of the National Security Council in Alexandria today, the official spokesman for presidential affairs made a concise statement in which he said that the council had met to discuss two subjects; namely, the latest developments of the situation with Israel and the internal situation in Egypt.

The spokesman said that there was no time to discuss topic number two; that is, the internal situation in Egypt. But there was only enough time to discuss topic number one.

The official spokesman added that as far as the discussions which took place during the council's meeting about topic number one are concerned, the foreign minister will issue a statement on this matter.

[TEXT] RADIO ON BEGIN GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION STANDS

NC2611?2Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jul 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary entitled "Analysis of the Position of the Begin Government and the Position of the Israeli Opposition Labor Party in Light of the Knesset Debate Yesterday"]

[Text] The sharp and violent discussions which took place between the Menahem Begin government and the leaders of the opposition Labor Party in the Israeli Knesset yesterday have revealed an important fact. This fact is that the differences between the two sides over the handling of the peace talks in the area have reached their peak.

It is wrong to assume that the Israeli opposition Labor Party is readier to comply with the legitimate Arab demands. There are fundamental differences between the bases of peace as demanded by the Israeli opposition and the bases of peace as seen by Egypt. Nevertheless, the position of the opposition in Israel may constitute a starting point for positive peace negotiations.

It is a well-known fact that the Middle East problem cannot be solved before negotiations; otherwise, there would be no need for negotiations. Before embarking on an analysis of the Israeli Knesset discussions, we would like to emphasize that developments have proved that the position of Menahem Begin's government and its intransigence completely precludes any useful contacts.

If we now move to the discussions which took place in the Knesset yesterday, we can see the most important points on which the Israeli opposition, represented by the Labor Party, is basing its attack on the Begin government policy. One of these points is that Begin's policy has weakened Israel's relations with Washington.

Former Israeli Foreign Minister Yig'al Allon said that Begin's foreign policy is a foolish one, which has prompted Washington to adopt Egypt's viewpoint. Allon also said that Israel's credibility has been greatly eroded and that the world's support for Israel has diminished, particularly in the United States and even among the American Jewish community.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin also criticized the Begin government's policy for not exploring all attempts to establish peace in the area.

As a further proof of the differences between the Begin government and the Israeli opposition Labor Party, we cite here what Yig'al Allon said about these differences. Allon said that the Begin government's refusal to try to reach a joint declaration of principles with Egypt was a great mistake. Such a declaration, Allon said, could have given Jordan a chance to join the negotiations. Allon further clarified the situation by saying: We cannot affirm that the Labor Party policy, based on a territorial compromise in the West Bank, will necessarily lead to peace. However, such a policy could be defended on the international level.

However, what attracts attention are the great illusions of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. These illusions may eventually prove that Begin's mentality is not completely sound.

For example, in his discourse about his government's policy before the Knesset, Begin pointed out that if after a certain date it is proved that it is difficult or impossible to reach a peace agreement, then Israel will agree to the establishment of peaceful relations. He said the traditional example of such relations is the stand of Germany toward Europe. Germany did not sign treaties after World War II, but it enjoys peaceful relations with its neighbors.

Such strange illusions about which Begin is speaking reveal many things. They reveal his hidden Nazism and racism. More than anything else, they reveal a true gap between his thinking and the objective facts in the Middle East.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET 30 JULY

NC261918Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The National Security Council will meet under President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat in Alexandria next Sunday to discuss the internal situation, which was scheduled to be discussed at the National Security Council's meeting today. However, there was no time to discuss the internal situation because the discussion of the situation with Israel took up all of the council's time today.

COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED

NC260955Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 July--Cairo's AL-AHRAM reports today that a communist organization was recently unearthed in Al-Gharbiyah Governorate in the Arab Republic of Egypt and that the investigations revealed that the aim of the organization was to stir up anarchy and sedition among the citizens and to overthrow the regime by force. The paper says that the leader of the organization is a pharmacist called Jamil Isma'il al-Hafni and that leaflets belonging to the secret Communist Party were found in his possession. The leaflets call for overthrowing the regime in Egypt, establishing a communist society and applying a system of rule similar to that in Aden. A large quantity of Soviet-manufactured ammunition was confiscated from the accused, who have been arrested.

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE EXPELS IRAQI DIPLOMATS

JN261727Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] London, 26 July--The British Foreign Office today asked 11 employees of the Iraqi Embassy and establishments to leave British soil no later than Monday. The British Foreign Office did not give any justification for this measure, which included the Iraqi [illegible]; the military attache, the commercial attache, the cultural attache and their [illegible]; the director and one employee of the Iraqi Airlines Company; the third secretary in the embassy; and an employee in the Ar-Rafidayn Bank in the British capital.

BBC Report

LD262121Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD

[Text] We have just heard that about 11 Iraqi officials in London, members of the embassy staff and others, have been expelled from Britain. A Foreign Office statement tonight said that increasing concern at the threat of terrorist activities in London had led them to look closely at all aspects of public order. The presence in London of known Iraqi intelligence officers had led the government to conclude it would be best that they should leave.

HAMMADI, ARGENTINA'S MONTES DISCUSS TIES IN BELGRADE

FY270101Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2112 GMT 26 Jul 78 FY

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 26 July--During the opening session of the talks of the plenary assembly of nonalined nations here, Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes, the minister of foreign relations, today agreed with his Iraqi colleague, Sa'dun Hammadi, to strengthen the bonds between that Arab nation and Argentina.

According to an official report, both foreign ministers also agreed to increase trade relations "and to intensify technological cooperation." In addition, they agreed to hold official visits to Buenos Aires and Baghdad, the dates of which will be set in due time.

HAMMADI SPEAKS AT BELGRADE NONALINED CONFERENCE

For the Baghdad INA report on Foreign Minister Hammadi's address at the 26 July session of the Belgrade nonalined foreign ministers' conference, see the Yugoslavia section of the 27 July Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

PRC PETROLEUM INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN270922Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0738 GMT 27 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 July--PRC Petroleum Industry Minister Sung Chen-ming left Baghdad this morning after having participated in Iraq's celebrations of the July revolution anniversary. Sung Chen-ming has stated that his visit gave him the opportunity to observe Iraq's achievements under the 17 July Revolution. These achievements, he said, prove that Iraq under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is proceeding with firm steps toward development and progress.

The PRC minister added that he had held talks with Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister; and Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister. The meetings dealt with bilateral relations and the means to develop them, particularly in relation to oil and economic cooperation. He also stated that he will convey the greetings of the Iraqi Government and people to the Chinese Government and people.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

JN262027Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in Al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil who conveyed to his majesty a message from President Anwar as-Sadat.

During the meeting, they reviewed the political efforts being made to achieve a just settlement in the area and discussed the obstacles standing in the way of these efforts. They also exchanged views on the current Arab situation, developments in the area and the means to achieve Arab solidarity. They also discussed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and acting minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

Kamil arrived in Amman this evening. On arrival, he expressed his extreme happiness at being able to respond to the invitation extended by Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister, to visit Jordan and discuss the fateful Arab issues.

Kamil said: It is an honor to convey to His Majesty King Husayn a message from President as-Sadat on the recent developments in the area, particularly the tripartite meeting in Leeds. That meeting took place in response to a call by President Carter. He said: Our stand is clear and frank. We welcome peace and security for all parties; we also welcome neighborliness. We refuse to bargain over land or peace, [as heard] and the subject of our land and sovereignty cannot be negotiated. We will exclude this subject from any discussions with the Israeli side.

Kamil said: We believe in policies, not persons. If Begin will change his policy and show a readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and restore the Palestinian people's rights, we will be ready for negotiations.

Kamil was received at the airport by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and acting minister of state for foreign affairs; the interior minister; the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; a number of senior officials; and the Egyptian ambassador and members of the Egyptian Embassy staff in Amman.

ALFRED ATHERTON MEETS WITH INFORMATION MINISTER

JN251845Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jul 78 JN

[Text] 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and acting minister of state for foreign affairs, today received U.S. envoy to the Middle East Mr Alfred Atherton.

Following the meeting, Abu 'Awdah stated that a review was held of the latest peace efforts being exerted to solve the Middle East crisis, what the U.S. administration envisages in the coming stage and Jordan's outlook regarding the course of these efforts in light of the analysis of current political efforts. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry secretary general and the U.S. charge d'affairs in Amman.

Concludes Visit

JN2611l2Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] U.S. envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton left Amman this morning following a 3-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Atherton met with His Majesty King Husayn and discussed recent developments pertaining to efforts to find peace in the Middle East with high-ranking officials. He was also acquainted with Jordan's views on the various aspects of the Palestinian cause, the dispute in the area and the means to achieve a just peace.

HUSAYN ADDRESSES DRAFTEES AFTER COMPLETION OF SERVICE

JN2613S4Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Under the auspices of His Majesty King Husayn, a celebration was held today at the Royal Polo Club in Az-Zarqa to demobilize the first group of draftees following their 2 years of service in the Jordanian Armed Forces.

His Majesty King Husayn made a speech to the draftees in which he said: The armed forces, the shield of our homeland and the pillar of its being, we will not spare any effort to continue developing and modernizing these forces so they will always stand ready to patriotically defend our rights and build Arab glory.

His majesty greeted the draftees and said: You will return to civilian life with new abilities and energies to meet your obligations while you are still young; you will fulfill your national duty on which decipline, order, sacrifice and duty depend.

His Majesty added: You have concluded your national service with honor, loyalty and faithfulness. You have finished your military training with strength and determination so you can form the strong and permanent tributary of the armed forces. Thus, you can work to achieve the wishes and ambitions of our beloved people and our great nation. These ambitions and wishes, for which the Arab great revolution erupted, form the basis of the current Arab struggle and are the wellspring of thought throughout the great Arab homeland.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS SNIPING, CLASHES IN BEIRUT

NC261202Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Sniping operations aimed at the streets in the Al-Hadath township and surrounding areas have been continuing since this morning. The citizens have remained in their shelters and homes, unable to come out to buy essential goods.

At noon, a rocket shell fell on the western runway of Beirut airport. Two other shells were fired from the direction of (Tibnayn), where the Syrian Deterrent Forces are positioned. No casualties have been reported.

Armed clashes have been resumed in Muhammad al-Hut Street of the Ra's an-Nab' area in Beirut among the organizations supporting Syria and Iraq. RPG's were used in the clashes, which broke out after the killing of Mustafa Shankar, who belonged to one of the armed organizations. He and his group were accused yesterday of opening fire on some armed organizations.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES ON AL-HADATH SITUATION

NC261845Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Asked about the security situation in the Al-Hadath area, a responsible source of the Arab Deterrent Forces Command said the following:

In the wake of yesterday's clashes, the security situation in the Al-Hadath area has improved. Only some intermittent shots were fired, but the situation was rapidly contained. As a result of the combined efforts exerted by the Arab Deterrent Forces Command and the Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces, calm continues to prevail. These efforts have also led to the adoption of several measures which are bound to restore complete calm and stability to the area.

The joint team of the two commands is expected to continue its coordination with the parties concerned in order to open the old Sidon road tomorrow morning, thus restoring traffic on this road and ultimately contributing to the return of normal living conditions in the area.

Beirut Radio Report

NC261715Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At present, the situation in Al-Hadath is calm. Throughout the day, sniping and intermittent exchanges of fire took place. It can be asserted that today's situation has been relatively quiet in comparison to last night when incidents caused the death of a number of innocent citizens.

LEBANESE FORCES TO TAKE UP POSITIONS IN AL-HADATH

NC270951Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At 1000 today his excellency the president of the republic received his beatitude the maronite patriarch, Mar Antonios Butrus Khuraysh, who was accompanied by the locum tenens, Bishop Nasrallah Sufayr.

The security authorities are expected this morning to begin implementing a series of measures aimed at stabilizing the security situation in the southern suburbs of the capital, particularly in the Al-Hadath area, which in the past few days has been the scene of violent clashes in which a number of people have been killed or wounded.

In accordance with these measures, units of the Internal Security Forces will take up positions in Al-Hadath and the city center in an attempt to restore stability and calm as a first step toward the resumption of normal activity in the various public and private establishments and utilities.

AL-HUSS, BUTRUS MAKES STATEMENTS ON CABINET MEETING

NC2611101Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 today, President Ilyas Sarkis chaired the cabinet's weekly session attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

The session ended at 1305. On leaving the palace, the prime minister made a statement in which he said: The deliberations at this morning's cabinet session were confined to the general security situation. The discussions concentrated in particular on possible ways to halt this continuous and painful bleeding, which is bleeding the hearts of all of us. We hope that the measures which are being discussed will lead to the desired results, thus sparing the lives of innocent and peaceful people.

Asked whether quick measures will be taken to halt the shelling, the prime minister said: Contacts are being held to put a rapid end to the current incidents.

Asked if the cabinet discussed the question of the army and its dispatch to the south today, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: The cabinet adopted a decision in this regard some time ago. The issue has become procedural and, contrary to what was reported in the press today, there is no need for more cabinet meetings on the question of sending the army to the south.

PSP LEADER MEETS WITH LEBANESE BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL

JN2611139Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 July--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, met at noon today with Radi Farahat, deputy secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Rafiq Abu Yunis, Ba'th Party representative in the Central Political Council of the Nationalist Movement.

During the meeting, a review was made of the current situation in Lebanon and the Arab region as well as of all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and ways to insure the unity of the Lebanese territory and people.

INA: JOINT FORCES EXECUTE LEBANESE CITIZEN AS ZIONIST AGENT

JN2512247 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 July--The joint command of the Nationalist Movement forces in southern Lebanon today executed Lebanese Agent Fatimah 'Awwadah for her cooperation with the Zionist enemy. Agent Fatimah 'Awwadah had admitted cooperating with the enemy and furnishing him with military information about the joint forces.

KHADDAM ON ARAB PRINCIPLES AT BELGRADE

JN2709111Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Belgrade, 27 July--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has stated that Yugoslav President Tito's position toward the Middle East issue is a continuation of the sincere stands Yugoslavia has adopted toward the Arab nation's main cause.

In an exclusive interview with a SANA correspondent, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs stated that while our friends are expressing their support for our cause and are working for this purpose, we see As-Sadat adopting a defeatist and capitulatory policy.

Asked to express his opinion about Arab coordination at the nonaligned foreign ministers conference, Khaddam stressed that we are bound by the resolutions adopted by the Rabat and Algiers summit meetings to the following principles:

1. To achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem;

2. To guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, particularly their right to return to their homeland, to exercise their rights to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their soil;

3. To support the Palestine Liberation Organization in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people;

4. To condemn all attempts aimed at negotiating with the enemy, deviating from the Arab people's pan-Arab objectives and dealing separately with the Zionist enemy.

The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs stated that these principles will be the guidelines for the Arab delegations participating in the nonaligned foreign ministers conference.

KHADDAM SCORES AS-SADAT, ACCUSES ISRAEL OF MASSACRES

LD261325Y Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Jul 78 Part I p 2 LD

[Mogens Kofod-Hansen report on Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's 'weekend' Copenhagen meeting with 'a few Danish journalists' and 21 July dinner speech: "Syrian Foreign Minister Calls As-Sadat 'Criminal'"]

[Text] [Question] Do you support a proposal by four or five Arab countries to the effect that President As-Sadat be brought before a tribunal and be tried for having betrayed the Arab cause?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Do you then believe that As-Sadat is a criminal:

[Answer] Yes.

This extraordinary exchange took place on the weekend between a few Danish journalists and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the 46-year-old Syrian foreign minister, who is paying a 3-day official visit to see the Danish country and to conduct political discussions on bilateral issues and the Middle East situation with Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen and Minister Lise Ostergaard.

The interview with Khaddam stressed that he represents the tough and rejectionist Arab wing which simply rejects the Egyptian president's peace initiative toward Israel. He said that As-Sadat has placed himself outside the Arab camp, and he called him a criminal of the same category as French Marshal Petain, who collaborated with the German Nazis during World War II.

[Question] Can't As-Sadat be received into the fold again?

[Answer] If he declares that all that he has said (since the peace initiative began last November) is invalid, Egypt can resume its place in the Arab world. Then, maybe, we can talk to him.

[Question] Is there no possibility that Syria will support the Egyptian peace policy?

[Answer] No, not at all. We believe that his course has destroyed all attempts to achieve peace. Before As-Sadat's initiative there was work on getting the Geneva negotiations (the fruitless peace conference which was broken off in December 1973) resumed. He prevented that. Now 8 months have passed since his initiative, and nothing has been achieved. We said beforehand to him that this is how it would go and pointed to history --for example, Petain's agreement with the Nazis, which did not bring peace to Europe--but As-Sadat obviously has a bad memory....

Khaddam accused Egypt's president of being interested only in appearing on television and in the international mass media.

His utterances do not surprise those who heard the Syrian foreign minister's harsh words at a government dinner Friday evening at Christiansborg, which Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen hosted and at which he had first spoken moderately and in a balanced way of the need for a negotiated Middle East peace, based on secure and recognized borders, of Israel's right to exist and of its duty to withdraw.

In his reply, in a tone that has hardly been heard previously in stately Christiansborg, Khaddam concentrated on harsh accusations against Israel, which he called "the main hindrance" to peace and blamed it for "massacres." Many of the Danish dinner guests were clearly embarrassed by the foreign minister's detailed description of the bloodshed, as when he spoke of 23 bullets in a little girl's dead body, before the proposed toast to the Danish queen.

Khaddam also spoke of Syria's "peacekeeping role" in Lebanon. Yesterday a report arrived of fresh fighting in Beirut between Syrian troops and Lebanese Christians. Syrian heavy artillery shelled Christian quarters after two soldiers were killed by snipers.

'L-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM WALDHEIM

JN251936Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Jul 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim expressing his gratitude for the warm hospitality accorded him during his recent visit to Damascus. Dr Waldheim also expressed thanks for the talks which gave him a better understanding of the various angles of the Middle East question. He affirmed that he will exert his utmost for a just and lasting solution to this problem.

Waldheim expressed sincerest wishes to his excellency the president and the Syrian people.

AMMAN AD-DUSTUR: JORDANIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE TO MEET

JN2606152 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Syrian Government has asked all ministries to prepare a detailed and comprehensive report on the executive steps that have been taken so far in the field of coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries--Jordan and Syria--as part of the decisions and directives of the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee.

The Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade has asked all ministries and competent institutions to furnish it with detailed reports on steps that have already been taken between the two countries in the sphere of coordination. The ministry also asked to be furnished with the minutes of the meetings of the joint committee and proposals, ideas and topics for presentation at meetings of the higher committee. The ministry also asked the ministries to point out the difficulties and obstacles facing implementation, in preparation for meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian committee, which are expected to take place soon.

ARTILLERY, ROCKET CORPS CARRY OUT EXERCISE

JN2613322 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The artillery and rocket corps have carried out a tactical exercise with actual rocket fire during which they set up mobile launching positions and opened rocket fire from these positions. The exercise was attended by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister; Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff; several senior officers in the general command; and the commanders of the combat formations.

On arriving at the designated site, the general was briefed on the various stages of the exercise. The units of the formation hit their targets with great accuracy and successfully accomplished their mission.

At the end of the exercise, Gen Mustafa Talas praised the efforts being made to increase the combat readiness of our armed forces so that they will be ready to wage the battle against the Zionist enemy to liberate our occupied land and regain the usurped rights of our people.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES KUWAITI, JORDANIAN ENVOYS

JN2620007 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi this afternoon received 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, who paid a farewell call at the end of his tour in Syria.

Al-Halabi also received Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Nabih an-Nimr. The discussions at the two meetings dealt with relations among Syria, Jordan and Kuwait.

BRIEFS

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR--President Hafiz al-Asad today received the credentials of Masanao Odaka, Japanese ambassador in Damascus. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jul 78 JN]

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN DISSIDENT URGES BOUMEDIENE TO CHOOSE PEACE

LD270947Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 19 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[MAP report: "New Situation in Maghreb Should Serve Cause of Peace and Respect for Sovereignty of States in the Region"]

[Text] Paris 18 July--Mohamed Lebjaoui, leader of the Algerian Movement of Popular and Armed Forces for Democracy and Maghreb Unity, has just published a communique in Paris on the situation in the Maghreb following recent events in Mauritania. The full text is as follows:

The changes which have just taken place in the Mauritanian Government must not under any circumstances be used as a pretext for increasing the threats of fratricidal war which all the children of the Arab Maghreb are now facing.

Apart from any other consideration, this new situation in Nouakchott should lead to real joint discussions to try and find a peaceful settlement which respects the national sovereignty of Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria.

That is why I hope that the temporary unilateral cease-fire which Colonel Boumediene has just ordered is not just a tactical measure aimed at promoting, by different means, the manifestly anti-Maghreb policy which has already brought grief to many Algerian, Moroccan and Mauritanian families. This provisional halt in hostilities could certainly help to start the peace process provided that it is not designed as another appropriate means of tricking international public opinion, soothing the Algerian people's growing discontent, trying to divide Nouakchott and Rabat once again, making France and Spain hostile to Morocco and sowing greater confusion in Arab and African ranks at the expense of the fraternal Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples, and so as to boost Colonel Boumediene's personal prestige.

All Maghrebians from the Sahara and any other part of the Arab Maghreb are aware of the danger and want peace more than anything else. It is now a more pressing priority than ever before.

Colonel Boumediene has just shown--to those who still doubted it in particular--that he has the power to stop all armed aggression from our territory immediately. He must now be convinced that the best way of saving face is to refuse to order the resumption of hostilities.

Indeed there is no possible doubt that Boumediene's regime is entirely responsible for the choice between war and peace in our region.

But peace is not an attainable objective.

An initial meeting between Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania could easily pave the way for negotiations which would enable us to work together to find the most just, fraternal and equitable solution.

This just and equitable solution would not jeopardize the territorial integrity of any of the countries concerned and would safeguard the future, security, prosperity and united destiny of all peoples in the Arab Maghreb. Among other things, this solution would enable our 5,000 Saharan brothers, who truly belong to the Sahara and are at present deprived of their homeland, to return home.

Once they had returned to their people they would be given the opportunity to express their views freely in an election which has so far been prevented by Boumediene's attitude alone--a truly democratic election ratified by the whole world.

Our movement is still convinced that the Maghreb countries, weakened by unjustifiable fratricidal conflicts, will eventually overcome the present artificial disputes and will one day build a united Arab Maghreb in peace and fraternity, enabling our people to attain their greatest ambitions for the benefit of our respective nations, the Maghreb community, the Arab Moslem world and Africa. This united Maghreb would play an effective part in all the struggles going on in the world for freedom, true democracy and justice and in all battles to safeguard peace.

LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS COUNTERPARTS IN BELGRADE

LD251552Y Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 25 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, 25 July, JANA--The foreign secretary, Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki', held a meeting with Mr Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, the Sudanese foreign minister and vice president who is heading the Sudanese delegation in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries. The foreign secretary also held meetings with the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Mr Abu Mayzar, the PLO representative.

During those meetings they discussed the next day's proposed items and international issues in general and the situation in the Arab world in particular.

MAJOR JALLUD RETURNS HOME FROM INDIA VISIT

LD262054Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud returned to Tripoli this evening at the end of his 1-week visit to India.

MAURITANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RESULT OF OAU SUMMIT

PA262228Y Paris AFP in French 1637 GMT 26 Jul 78 PA

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 July (AFP)--A little over 15 days after having toppled President Moktar Ould Daddah, the new Mauritanian leaders who have made peace in Sahara their prime objective seem to have placed all their hopes on the Organization of African Unity (OAU). At least this seems evident from the news conference held Monday in Nouakchott by Mauritanian foreign minister Mr Shekh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, who participated in the OAU summit in Khartoum.

I do not think it is possible, the minister said in essence, that Mauritania should undertake an action parallel to what will be undertaken by the ad hoc commission--whose creation was decided upon by the OAU to study "all the facts regarding Western Sahara, including the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of this territory." The chief Mauritanian diplomat then noted that the basis for a negotiated settlement of the conflict should be spelled out "a priori" by "this committee of wise men" when it is set up and begins its investigations in the concerned states.

The prospect of a settlement within the context of the OAU should finally satisfy the organization members, above all the protagonists of the Saharan war, insofar as the objective will be pursued and achieved as soon as possible, observers in Mauritania estimate.

In any case, the authorities in Nouakchott have great faith in "African wisdom" and the OAU's determination to restore peace in the Sahara, a "fundamental condition," they tirelessly repeat, for national reconstruction.

During his address in Khartoum before the OAU summit, a text of which the daily newspaper CHAAB published, the foreign minister voiced the intention of the new regime to solve this problem "with our neighbors through peaceful means, through talks, alongside our Moroccan brothers, under OAU auspices."

Mr Mohamed Laghdaf did not fail to tell a large number of chiefs of states and governments in Khartoum "about the profound desire and need for peace" in Mauritania. The seriousness of the problem and the urgency of a solution have not, it seems to him, escaped the OAU "this time," he boasted in Nouakchott.

SALECK VOICES OPTIMISM ON SAHARA PEACE PROSPECTS

LD2613417 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Jul 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Domingo Del Pino undated interview in Nouakchott with Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck]

[Excerpt] Question: Nouakchott insists on two things: Mauritania wants to end the war and it wants to do so in cooperation with Morocco. Does the Mauritanian Government believe that at some time in the present or the future it must negotiate with or get to know the viewpoints of Algeria and the POLISARIO?

Answer: Mauritania does indeed want a solution to be found to the war. Of course, as you yourself said, it would like the entire problem to be brought to a conclusion with its associate, Morocco. It is obvious that if there is to be peace, this peace must benefit everyone, and for there to be peace in this part of the Maghreb there must be perfect understanding between Morocco and Mauritania on the one hand--and, thank God, this is the case at the moment--and it is obviously necessary for the other interlocutors in the area to participate if they are benefiting from experiencing this peace--I refer in particular to Algeria.

Question: Does ending the war imply directly or indirectly revising the agreements already concluded, such as the Madrid tripartite agreements of 1975?

Answer: The agreements are no more than a means, the concrete form of certain pledges made in the face of a given situation. The option of a people is something which evolves and adapts to the times, and I do not think that there is any contradiction in this. History is a series of continuous processes, events and phases and the main thing is not to allow ourselves to be overtaken by history. The solution of problems is tied to and impelled in particular by the higher interests of peoples.

Question: It was claimed that former President Ould Daddah was the obstacle to peace. Peace, however, seems to have its own limitations. As far as war and peace are concerned, might this government not end up in a situation similar to that of the previous regime?

Answer: I have so far refused to level accusations at the former government because I believe that it foundered by itself, that it grew weary and demonstrated a notorious helplessness, which everyone confirms, with regard to all the problems it had to face. The present government is tackling all the problems with determination but also with the caution which the situation demands; in other words, through dialog, understanding and discussion aimed at reaching solutions.

Question: Mauritania has just sent emissaries abroad to explain the situation. Have you ever thought that the Moroccan military force in Mauritania could be replaced by an inter-African or other force acceptable to all the parties in the area?

Answer: I think you are going too far and anticipating events that have not been foreseen.

At the moment, certainly, the MCNR has sent emissaries, explanatory missions to all friendly countries and we will continue to send them as long as our position has not been explained to all our friends. But there is a difference between this and seeking other interpretations.

The Moroccan troops are in Mauritania at the Mauritanians' wish and at Mauritania's request. And the king, His Majesty Hassan II, has always told anyone who wished to listen that those forces are there for Mauritania's sake and that when Mauritania no longer feels the need he is willing to withdraw them. Moreover, I think that these forces are already costing him enough for him indeed to be willing if necessary to end this sacrifice which has been imposed by the necessities of war. At present what we hope for and what we want is for peace to spread throughout the area.

Question: In the long term does Mauritania believe that it must cooperate with all the parties in this area, including the Saharans?

Answer: This is the hope of all the peoples and, in my opinion, it is an illusion to think that differences, disagreements and conflicts can drag on forever within an area which everything helps to unite and where everything helps to create understanding. Even if at a given moment in history there are clouds over relations among the peoples, this is no reason why the conflict should last and become permanent.

We have seen more serious conflicts, wars which have enveloped the whole world, and yet they have ended. I think that this is certainly a case which could not have reached its present proportions if it had not been inflated more than necessary. Now it must be reduced to its real dimensions.

Question: It is a fact that this has been a bloodless coup. However, what will be the fate of the former president and members of his government, who are still deprived of their freedom?

Answer: At the moment the MCNR and the government have more urgent problems to deal with than the fate of people whose good fortune has deserted them. The most urgent problems are those which concern the Mauritanian people as a whole and we will start with them. As soon as we have resolved those problems we will study these people's cases. This is a problem on which we are not very keen but, as you have seen, it is not a question of settling accounts with anyone. It is merely a question of a historical phase which it has been necessary to close. Later we will see what is to happen in a few isolated cases of people who, viewed as a whole, are of no account.

Question: How do Mauritania's relations with Spain stand and how can they evolve? What is the Mauritanian government's attitude toward the Canary Islands affair which is being debated by the OAU?

Answer: I do not think that anything has happened which necessitates a modification of Mauritania's attitude toward Spain, except to adapt it and--why not?--improve the existing relations between the two countries. Spain can be looked upon by the Maghreb as a special neighbor because it has ties of all kinds, particularly historical ones, with all our peoples. It is obvious that everything points toward good relations with Spain. For the time being, Mauritania's position with regard to Spain and its problems has not been modified.

Question: Do you see any role for Spain in this quest for peace, in view of its relations with all the parties in the area?

Answer: Certainly, any participation in this sphere is naturally useful. I believe that, inasmuch as it has a number of friends among the countries in the area, Spain can contribute to the necessary appeasement. In addition, Spain, which after all is a member of the concert of free nations, can probably carry out effective action at the level of these bodies.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTRY AIDE CONFERS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

LD2615517 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 14 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Excerpt] Rabat, 13 July [MAP]--Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abderrahmane Baddou received Alexey Shvedov, head of the "African" department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, at his department headquarters Thursday morning. The talks dealt with the present state of relations between Morocco and the Soviet Union and the prospects for developing bilateral relations. The talks were attended by Mr Belkora, head of the Europe-America section, Dr Alaoui, director of economic affairs at the Ministry of State, in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, and by the Soviet ambassador to Rabat.

NEW ENVOYS TO FRG, GDR PRESENT CREDENTIALS

LD2509417 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 8 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Summary] Moroccan Ambassador to the GDR Maati Jorio presented his credentials last Friday to State Council Chairman Erich Honecker. On Thursday, new Moroccan Ambassador to the FRG Abdelhakim Iraqui presented his credentials to President Scheel.

SUDAN

40 VILLAGES FLOODED IN CENTRAL SUDAN

JN2413487 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 24 July--Floods swept most parts of Al-Jazirah District in central Sudan following 2 days of heavy rainfall. The floods destroyed one whole village and submerged 40 others in the district. The authorities there used helicopters to reach the villages in order to inspect the situation and drop immediate relief and tents. The rainfall in those areas averaged 102-106 millimeters. No loss of life was reported.

Numayri Visits Area

LD261542Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reports that President Numayri visited the areas affected by floods and rain in Al-Jazirah Directorate. He was accompanied by the UN representative in Khartoum. The aim of the tour was to study the situation in all the affected villages. The aircraft carrying the president was able to land at Wad Madani airfield where he held a meeting with the acting provincial governor, who gave him a detailed briefing on the situation.

President Issues Statement

LD261540Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri has issued the following statement:

"The Jazirah Directorate is suffering severe hardship following unprecedented rainfall which has reached 370 millimeters at the beginning of the fall, while the average in this area for the whole of the fall is not more than 150 millimeters.

"This has affected over 220 villages, of which about a hundred were completely devastated. In addition, some utilities and services in the province have been damaged or destroyed.

The result of this tragic misfortune is that about one hundred thousand families are virtually without shelter."

The floods have hampered communications, but state organs continue to help the afflicted. The official effort, however great, is no substitute for the popular effort required. "I have therefore formed a national committee under the chairmanship of Mr Abel Alier, vice president of the republic, to provide urgent help to the victims of floods and rain in the Jazirah Directorate.

"I trust and believe that our people will hasten to support the work of this committee through the formation of national subcommittees all over Sudan under the supervision of secretaries of the Socialist Union and governors of provinces, with a view to collecting material donations to help their brothers who suffered a natural disaster with which they cannot cope without the support of our people, their revolution and their government. I expect the work of these committees to start immediately."

"Brothers: I do not think I need to remind you that Jazirah Directorate was and still is the nerve center of the economy of the whole of Sudan and linked with the prosperity of all parts of Sudan. For this reason, aid to it in the hours of its trial is only the discharge of a debt."

Calls for Help

JN261707Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 July--President Numayri met today in Khartoum with the ambassadors of fraternal and friendly countries. The meeting took place following President Numayri's tour of Al-Jazirah Directorate, considered Sudan's largest agricultural production center, where he inspected the situation following the heavy rains.

President Numayri stressed to the ambassadors the need for their countries to help Sudan deal with the consequences of the disasterous heavy rains and floods in Al-Jazirah Directorate.

President Numayri said that during the past 2 days alone, the rainfall was 2.5 times the annual average. During the past 2 days 370mm of rain fell compared to 140 mm during all of last year. This caused villages to be flooded and cultivated lands to be devastated. President Numayri told the ambassadors that the floods have damaged more than 220 villages, while 100 villages have been completely destroyed. Some 100,000 families numbering half a million people have been made homeless. President Numayri also told the ambassadors that the floods have devastated 1.5 million feddans of a total of 2.2 million feddans of land in Al-Jazirah Directorate which had been prepared for cultivation this season. The floods have also damaged more than 300 schools.

President Numayri asked the ambassadors to provide emergency assistance to provide shelter to the citizens and protect them from expected diseases. Numayri also expresses his sorrow over the deaths being reported in this area. It has not yet been determined how many people have died.

In addition to the situation in Al-Jazirah Directorate, President Numayri also reviewed similar situations in the White Nile Directorate, Port Sudan and Kassala Directorate which remained 5 days without drinking water.

President Numayri has also contacted UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim to request emergency assistance from the appropriate specialized agencies to deal with these disasters.

SUNA Report on Situation

JN261701Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 July--Several parts of Sudan are still being subjected to the heavy rains which have inflicted large losses on the population, damaged buildings and killed animals.

In the Nile Directorate in northern Sudan, the rains heavily damaged four villages. Units of the People's Armed Forces rushed to help the victims.

Heavy rains also flooded scores of villages and isolated certain towns in Al-Jazirah Directorate, which is considered Sudan's largest agricultural production center. This directorate is still being subjected to heavy rains.

Commenting on the situation, the UN representative in Khartoum stated that the situation is critical and swift action is required to handle it, particularly in Al-Jazirah Directorate, which is considred the pillar of Sudan's economy. Following a tour today with President Numayri to Al-Jazirah Directorate, the UN representative stated in Khartoum that he will contact the international organization and its various agencies to provide emergency assistance to the victims of this directorate and to provide the citizens there with tents, food and medicines.

Eastern Sudan Hit

JN261703Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 July--Reports from Khartoum state that during the past 2 days eastern Sudan has been subjected to heavy rains and floods which have damaged water pipes in the ('Arba'at) region near Port Sudan.

These pipes provide Port Sudan with drinking water. Emergency operations are underway to provide citizens with drinking water from Kassala Directorate. The rains have also heavily damaged approximately 16,000 yards of railroad tracks. Railroad workers are working hard to repair these lines under the difficult conditions resulting from the continuous rains.

IBRAHIM HOLDS TALKS WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD231844Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, vice president of the republic and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, today received Gedle-Giorgis Feleke, foreign minister of Ethiopia.

Dr Feleke told a press conference after the 2-hour meeting: We have reviewed relations between the two countries and our common concerns. He added that relations between Sudan and Ethiopia are deeply rooted in history. He affirmed that relations between the two countries now and in the future should be warm relations as two fraternal neighbors and peoples linked by common history, mutual interests and a common future.

The Ethiopian foreign minister went on to say: We have also reviewed the positive results reached by the African summit conference, which confirmed the ability of the African Continent to solve its own problems, build its future and stand against colonialism and imperialism.

TUNISIA

SOVIET HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL DEPARTS

LD270206Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] A Tunisian-Soviet working session was held this morning at the Health Ministry headed by Mongi Ben Hamida, minister of public health and the Soviet Deputy Health Minister (Safonov). Prospects of cooperation in the health field were discussed.

In his speech, the Tunisian minister stressed the ideal nature of relations of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and the Soviet Union, especially in the health field. He also spoke about the good prospects for the development of this cooperation.

The Soviet deputy minister expressed satisfaction at the attention given to the field of health in Tunisia, specially to basic equipment and training of [word indistinct] medical cadre. He observed that cooperation in this field represented an important factor in mutual understanding among the peoples. He also stressed that the favorable circumstances under which the Soviet doctors are working in Tunisia contribute to the strengthening of this cooperation.

The deputy health minister left Tunisia this evening at the end of a working visit of about a week. He was seen off at the airport by a number of Health Ministry officials and the Soviet ambassador in Tunisia.

MILITARY DELEGATION TO EGYPT ASKED TO LEAVE

TA261920Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Our military correspondent has learned that the Israeli military delegation in Egypt was asked this afternoon, in the wake of a decision by the Egyptian National Security Council, to leave Egypt tomorrow. Our correspondent reports that the delegation headed by Col Ya'aqov Heykhal will return to Israel tomorrow morning. Military correspondent 'Amiram Nir reports on how this surprising Egyptian move was received in Israel:

The Egyptian announcement, which has not yet been made public, was received by Israel with surprise, although not with total surprise. A few weeks ago, after the Israeli answers to the U.S. questions were submitted, one of the assessments in the defense establishment was that As-Sadat would take advantage of the presence of the Israeli military delegation to severely react to Israel's position. It was believed then that the two dates mentioned by As-Sadat in his speeches--23 July and the beginning of October--were aimed--the first, at the expulsion of the Israeli delegation and the second, at the nonrenewal of the interim agreement or a military escalation in Sinai.

It is assessed this evening in Israel that it is possible that As-Sadat is expelling the Israelis as a reaction to the message of nonacceptance sent by Menahem Begin to the Egyptian request for a gesture. The presence of the Israeli delegation in Egypt appeared to be important to both sides--both as a direct and immediate communications pipeline between the two sides and as a manifestation of the special relations created in the wake of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem--relations that continued in the days of ebb in the negotiations as well. Therefore, the expulsion of the delegation appears to be a severe move on the part of the Egyptians and places in question the holding of direct meetings in the very near future--meetings which have recently been discussed.

In this connection, one should bear in mind Cairo radio's announcement yesterday on the possibility of war should the Egyptian peace initiative fail. Senior Israeli elements have assessed that at the beginning of October, when the term of the interim agreement comes to an end, Egypt might try to cause an escalation in Sinai, for example, to concentrate more troops than permitted in the limited forces zone. This would require an Israeli reaction.

To Return via Egyptian Plane

TA270755Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that at noon today an Egyptian plane will bring back the IDF delegation from Tsanaklis airbase near Alexandria, following the Egyptian authorities' demand that it be returned to Israel.

The defense minister has expressed regret about the break in the direct contact that have been maintained via the delegation and voiced hope that they will be resumed soon.

ISRAEL WILL NOT TOLERATE SYRIANS SOUTH OF LITANI

TA261625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said it is not true that Israel has given the Syrians a green light to introduce their army south of the Litani River. He pointed out that reports of that appearing in the foreign press are untrue. The deputy defense minister stated this in answer to a question in the Knesset.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL, OTHER ISSUES

TA262055Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 26 Jul 78 TA

[Interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin by Ya'aqov Ahimeir, Elimelekh Ram and Dan Raviv in the weekly "Moqed" program--live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Good evening. We are honored to host Prime Minister Menahem Begin in the Moqed studio this evening. Good evening sir. My colleagues Elimelekh Ram and Dan Raviv are with me in the studio. Mr Prime Minister, half an hour ago we heard the announcement that the Israeli military delegation in Egypt is to be expelled and will return to Israel tomorrow. What is your reaction to this announcement that comes in the wake of a meeting of the Egyptian National Security Council today?

[Begin] You don't have to say that it will be expelled. A few hours ago I received a message from the defense minister that he had received a telegram from his friend and colleague Al-Jamasi that includes a request that we recall the delegation tomorrow. We will do this willingly. The Egyptians were hospitable to us and kept the military delegation for several months. We are very grateful. If they do not want to keep our delegation in Egypt any longer it is their right. The delegation will return home. I can say that if one day the Egyptians ask that we host their military delegation here we will receive them hospitably.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, this morning, after a long time during which this terminology was not used, the Cairo radio commentator again used threats of war against Israel. In your opinion, does this phenomenon signal the collapse of the peace initiative?

[Begin] No, I think that these remarks have no value or significance. Of course, we have to be careful. We will take all due measures of care. However, I do not think that war is expected and Mr as-Sadat has not abandoned the idea of negotiations as you have heard him say several times. We want negotiations. However, I do wish to say that both Egypt and Syria--all our enemies--should know that if we are attacked we will defend ourselves. We do not want war. We hate war and bloodshed. We want peace with all our hearts and with all our souls. However, if we are attacked we will defend ourselves, and Israel, when it defends itself, sometimes does this through counterattack.

[Raviv] Mr Prime Minister, for several days you have avoided reacting to the insults coming from Egypt. When, in your assessment, will the time come to react to this assault?

[Begin] This is a question which will have to be decided at a suitable time. The time has not yet come. In general terms I feel that if it transpires that the line is cut and there are no more negotiations I will reply. I can also reply before this but I prefer--and I think that this is the right decision--not to enter a polemic--especially with that blatant hater of Israel, Anis Mansour, I think that's his name--a blatant hater of Israel. I heard this from a diplomatic representative of a foreign country. Mansour is well known as an anti-Semite in the usual sense of the word--that is to say, a hater of Israel. I will not enter into a polemic with him nor with As-Sadat, even though he says various things. The reason is simple. We do not want polemics, we want negotiations, talks on peace, on the making of peace, on the conditions of peace, on a peace treaty, on peace relations. So what is the point of my answering with a sharp tongue to the slander coming from the other side? It is better that I be among the offended than among the offenders.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission, I would like to go back to the issue of the return of the military delegation to Israel tomorrow. If I understood you correctly, you are inclined to view this as a matter of hospitality. They were guests in Egypt for a time and they will now return to Israel. Do you not regard this as a king of signal to Israel hinting at the cessation of negotiations--the direct contacts?

[Begin] No, no Mr Ahime'ir. In my opinion this is not even an event. The delegation did not play a central role in policy. Once in a while it got a message or sent a message. Some excellent officers sat there. They did not have a lot of work. We should take off our hats to the patience of these people--these officers. We should appreciate this deeply. However, this is not a political nor a military event. They were in Cairo and they will come home tomorrow. Welcome home, we will say to them.

[Ahime'ir] Do you, treat so lightly the presence of a delegation of Israeli officers in Egypt? Two years ago and a year ago this would have been a dream.

[Begin] Did I say that I treat this lightly? You are talking about their removal?

[Ahime'ir] Yes.

[Begin] This I treat lightly. It does not change the situation. Their presence was important and as long as the local landlords allowed them to be there we were very happy. Now the landlords no longer wish them to be there. Well, thank God they have a home of their own to which they will return. We will receive them with appreciation and with love.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, there is something that I do not understand. A delegation is being recalled--it sat for several months. A Cairo radio commentator threatens war. President as-Sadat and the media in Egypt are insulting you and I believe that you are playing down what is happening there, playing down the seriousness of the situation. Is this the case?

[Begin] No, I am not playing down anything. I only recommend to all the people of Israel that they have strong nerves. This is very important.

[Raviv] Mr Begin, it appears that everybody who has recently returned from a meeting with President as-Sadat, such as the defense minister and the foreign minister, were impressed with the sincerity of President as-Sadat's desire for peace. Are you a partner to this assessment?

[Begin] I'll tell you, exactly what I think. President as-Sadat wants peace with Israel on his own conditions. However, his conditions mean the destruction of Israel. Every Jew must know this. I take very seriously President as-Sadat's desire for what he calls peace with Israel--open border, diplomatic and economic relations--everything that he says. I accept this--but on his own conditions? What are his conditions? Total withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967--the lines prior to the 6-Day War, to the lines which were referred to by Mr Abba Eban as the Auschwitz lines--you have never heard so extreme a term from me--by the way, it is totally mistaken, there will not be an Auschwitz here--no Massada, no Auschwitz. If we are attacked we will defend ourselves--we will always win. We don't want these wars but, after all, the other side might make a wrong decision and we have to take this into account.

He wants that sort of peace--that Israel be reduced--9 km from the sea, surrounded by armies equipped with Soviet artillery having a range of 43.8 km. This was not the case 11 years ago. This artillery can reach every house in Israel--every mother and city in Israel. There is a Strela with which one can bring down an aircraft flying at 30,000 feet, and this weapon can be carried in a suitcase. These weapons didn't exist then. President as-Sadat is quietly aspiring to an Israel like this--very small, open to attack. Perhaps he is not planning an attack; so someone else might come in his place. Someone else will do the job. This is what he wants. He wants peace on his own conditions, but his conditions mean antipeace. His conditions mean a danger to the very existence of Israel. Therefore, we must not accept his conditions. We can accept his willingness for peace. We have to insist on conditions for peace that will give us security--not only for us but also for our children and grandchildren.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, you always say that President as-Sadat desires Israel's return to the lines prior to 1967 and, as you have just said, you regard this as a danger to Israel's existence. Should we understand from this that President as-Sadat's long-term strategic aim, in your view, is to bring about the destruction of the State of Israel--perhaps by means of peace?

[Begin] Mr Ahime'ir, I have already said something. He wants peace on conditions that will endanger the very existence of the State of Israel. Why use other words? These are enough. I have no doubt of this. The proof of this is that he is always repeating what he calls the land. What is land? The great Arab people have 12 million sq kms. We have 5,600 sq kms--Gaza, Judaea and Samaria. However, these 5,000 sq kms are our life, they are at our doorstep, they are near Tel Aviv, they are 9 kms from the seashore, they are near Kfar Sava, they are near Petah Tiqwa, they are near the cradle of every baby in Israel and, therefore, this is the central problem. Not the land, but our security and existence. Dayan rightly told Kamil in London that this is connected with certain territory. We do not deny this. But it is not true that we want territory for the sake of territory. We are concerned about the nation's security and were an enemy present in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza we would not have security for even 1 day. Our very existence both as a state and as a people would be in danger. This is what the dispute is all about. We will face this dispute, let there be no doubt about this--both with As-Sadat and with people bigger than he.

[Ram] Mr Begin, the day before yesterday, during the political debate in the Knesset, the foreign minister said that if Egypt submits a concrete proposal for a peace treaty....

[Begin] He did not put it that way. He said were Egypt.

[Ram] Were, that's right, were Egypt to submit a concrete proposal for a peace treaty based on a territorial compromise Israel would be prepared to discuss it.

[Begin] That's right.

[Ram] Does this augur a change in the government's position on a territorial compromise?

[Begin] The foreign minister made these remarks with my backing and he said them for a second time. He made the same remarks in the Knesset several months ago. Were, not if.

[Ram] What is the meaning? What is the difference....

[Begin] The meaning is very simple. The Arabs do not want any territorial compromise. Kamil explicitly said this at Leeds Catle--a very beautiful castle, it would be nice if the four of us were sitting there now--and he was specifically asked by Dayan, are you prepared to make peace with us on the basis of a territorial compromise? His answer in English was, of course not, of course not. We cannot make ourselves look deaf as if we can't hear what the foreign minister says. Under no circumstances, no territorial compromise. Therefore, if the Alinement leaders make this assessment in the Knesset--that we can make peace on the basis of a territorial compromise--they are misleading the public. They are saying the opposite of the truth. After all, who has the information about their willingness to make a territorial compromise? Only the enemy himself, Kamil, As-Sadat. As-Sadat rejects outright any territorial compromise. He said this in the Knesset. You have already forgotten. If I had the book I would read you his remarks to the Knesset. However, when one says territorial compromise it sounds very nice but it is misleading to the people. The people of Israel should know the truth. As for what the foreign minister was referring to--he was being honest--were they to submit such a proposal we would discuss it. This is a very fair attitude. However, they are not submitting such a proposal. On the contrary, they reject the whole idea outright. Any change is referred to by them as expansion.

Now I want to tell you something that I only learned today. Husayn, the one everyone thinks is moderate--he met with Atherton yesterday and it transpired that he is even more extreme than the Egyptians.

[Ahime'ir] That is to say?

[Begin] He doesn't want minor modifications either. In Egypt, As-Sadat, not Kamil, spoke about what is called minor modifications, referred to as Latrun-type modifications--he gave an example--a field cut in two, a village cut in two. This is what he is prepared to consider, and this is what is called minor modifications. Yesterday Husayn told Atherton no minor modifications either. Total Israeli withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967. As for any changes--these must be mutual--if Israel gets anything then I [Husayn] will demand something from Israel. Husayn even rejects minor modifications. Here is the moderate king for you.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, if Egypt submits a proposal for territorial compromise you would not be prepared to hand over part of Judaea and Samaria to foreign rule?

[Begin] Let me repeat what the foreign minister said. Were Egypt to submit such a proposal we would discuss it, we would discuss this and I confirm what the foreign minister said and I will not add a word nor detract from what the foreign minister said. Now, ask another question.

[Ahime'ir] That means that you will not be prepared to discuss the handing over of part of Judaea and Samaria to Arab sovereignty?

[Begin] I have already said my piece. Were the Arabs to submit a proposal for a territorial compromise in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza we would be prepared to discuss it. They do not propose this--not only do they not propose this, they totally reject this. So any further questions are pulled out of the sky--the clear sky--not from the ground, not from reality. It is a dream. I have to conduct the affairs of state, I am not allowed to dream.

[Raviv] Against this background, what chances do you see for the peace process? In view of the Arab answers have the moves not reached....

[Begin] There are excellent chances for the peace process.

[Raviv] Why, Mr Begin?

[Begin] The peace process is nowhere near its end. It will not come to an end. Look at the developments. We have negotiations. Atherton is in the area. On 3 August Mr Vance is to arrive. He has informed the Egyptians, I am coming on 3 August. The Americans are not sure, but they believe that they can bring about another meeting. They cannot promise this. There will be many more meetings. Listen, I said in the Knesset and the general public should also hear this--there is a famous saying in the Talmud, the certain is preferable to the doubtful. As for the search for peace, it is the doubtful that is preferable. Do not be too impressed by a no. Do not be too impressed by an insult. Continue to strive for peace. There will be 10 negative meetings and the 11th will be positive. Therefore, I am always optimistic, I really believe that peace will come out of all this. It might take time. There are some who are standing with a stop watch in their hand and they keep asking us from time to time: Haven't you signed yet? Sixty years of conflict? We have been conducting these direct talks for no longer than 9 months--the months of a pregnancy, so, a baby has been born but this is a conflict of 60 years standing. This takes time. Therefore, I ask the people of Israel to have a little patience and not jump at every shadow or fit of anger coming from Mr as-Sadat. We have to stand with both feet on the ground of reality, on Israel's confidence in peace. It will come with the help of God. Should I ask for your forgiveness for saying with God's help?

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I have a comment and a question. The comment is, could you stop tapping the microphone? It prevents you from being heard here.

[Begin] You are an expert at that.

[Ahime'ir] My question is, today, do you see a chance for another meeting between you and President as-Sadat?

[Begin] I will tell you exactly what I said. If he invites me to Cairo I am prepared to go. I have just read an announcement from Cairo--from Kamil--that I have announced my desire to go to Cairo. Let me correct this, I did not announce my desire to go to Cairo.

By the way, I saw Cairo from a plane. It is a very large city. When I went to Ismailia, the Egyptians invited me to fly over Cairo and see the pyramids on my way home. I have not been to Cairo, it is a very big city. Despite its having 8.5 or 9 million people--it has doubled its population--it has severe problems. This is what Mr as-Sadat told me when he said to me: You are my friend. He told me a lot about Cairo and I had a bird's-eye view of it.

I said that if I am invited to Cairo, as I invited Mr as-Sadat to Jerusalem, I would be prepared to go. I did not express my desire to go. But, I remember that when As-Sadat was here in Jerusalem he spoke with me and said this to me: Well, now you have the right to come to Cairo and speak to the Egyptian parliament after I, at your invitation, spoke to your parliament, but I still cannot invite you to Cairo. Give me a little more time. I reassured him. I said to him, Mr President, don't worry, whenever you want to invite me to Cairo I will come to Cairo. He invited me to Ismailia, so I went to Ismailia.

Therefore, I say that if As-Sadat invites me to Cairo I will accept the invitation. He claimed that he risked great danger in coming to Jerusalem. I am prepared to take all risks in visiting Cairo. I have no fears and no doubts. If he invites me to go to Cairo I will go. I will not invite myself and I have not invited myself. I did not declare a desire. I declared my willingness to answer positively an invitation.

[Ram] With your permission Mr Begin, I would like to go back to the issue of the negotiations. Last week, when mention was made of the gesture that the Egyptians want in Al-'Arish you said--and I hope I an accurate--that there is no gesture without reciprocation. What does Israel wnat in return for the return of Al-'Arish to Egyptian civilian administration?

[Begin] I am sorry Mr Ram. I cannot reveal this secret to you. Now perhaps, what's his name, Mr Gad Ya'aqobi, will know that the prime minister can keep a secret.

[Ram] Perhaps you can give us a hint.

[Begin] Because he said that I cannot be brought into secrets, I proposed an agreement to him--that in the next 3 years he not include me in any national secrets and I will not include him in any national secrets. A very fair agreement, what? Let's get back to the matter itself. It was not a coincidence that we formulated our letter as we did. We said the following: policy is not a matter of gestures or gesticulations. We will not agree to a unilateral gesture or to a unilateral move, but negotiations on an agreement--that is always possible. So, in fact, we gave a positive answer. We said, let's sit down at the table--you have a request--to get Al-'Arish and Santa Katerina--or Mount Moses, or Mount Sinai--there is a legend that the 10 Commandments were delivered on that mountain--that is a legend--no one knows where this took place--but there is such a legend--you want to gain administrative civilian control--we are prepared to consider this. We will ask for a quid pro quo from you. We will give and you will give. So there are no unilateral gestures.

Now you ask what we will ask--I'll tell you in all seriousness, Mr Ram, because I wouldn't hide a thing from you. The cabinet will decide on this if we get a positive answer from Mr as-Sadat that he is prepared to discuss with us the handing over of Al-'Arish and Santa Katerina to Egyptian control in return for what we ask from him. Only then will the government decide. For there is no point in making a decision on this before we get an answer on the meeting itself. Therefore, we are leaving this for the future.

Here I would like to add, if you have some patience, that here we have a comprehensive political idea--not just connected with Al-'Arish--and the idea is this: we have to distinguish between peace relations and peace treaties. We want a peace treaty. We introduced this term in the national unity government, and we say that a peace treaty means a termination of the state of war, the establishment of diplomatic relations, the opening of borders, tourism and everything you want, and this is a very real term in international law. There are examples of peace treaties. However, if it transpires that this is difficult and will take a lot of time, we should not despair. It is possible to create peace relations, as was the case in Germany--Germany has no peace treaty--this is a country that has not signed a peace treaty since the days of Potsdam, that is, 33 years ago. It has not signed a peace treaty but it lives in peaceful relations with the whole world and with its neighbors. So, we are prepared to draw up bilateral agreements on a permanent basis. Here lies the distinction--not interim agreements for 3 years and not unilateral agreements for Israeli withdrawal, but mutual and permanent, and in this way we will draw closer to peace relations.

[Ram] Can these be called partial agreements, sir?

[Begin] You can call them partial agreements but this word might be misleading against the background of the interim agreements. Therefore, I call them permanent and mutual, and not unilateral and temporary.

[Ram] Perhaps an approach to peace in stages?

[Begin] You could say that. Why not? If it takes a long time, it's not the end of the world, one can achieve peace relations and in the end sign a peace treaty. We prefer a peace treaty. We would like the serious negotiations to last for a number of months. I repeat this, and we will sign a peace treaty and give peace to our people in this generation and in coming generations. This is our desire and aspiration. If this is granted by the other side we will welcome it.

[Ahime'ir] One more question, sir, in the political sphere and then, perhaps, we will move over to other spheres. In an attempt to explain what appears to be a change in the government's position, MK David Glass of the MAFDAL said this week that you said at the cabinet meeting this week that you avoided submitting a resolution about Israel's willingness to discuss sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria because of a fear about the integrity of the government and because of your state of health then--about a month ago. What is the truth....

[Begin] As usual, the leak is inaccurate. The remarks are basically misleading. I am amazed at Mr Glass, who is a member of a coalition faction, for spreading a rumor of this nature. I will say exactly what I said at the cabinet meeting. I do not want to hide this. I am prepared to write an article on this issue. From the outset I supported our answering the Americans that we are prepared to discuss sovereignty on the basis of clause 24 of our peace plan. What does clause 24 say? Israel has the right and a claim to sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. It knows that there are additional claims. Therefore, for the sake of an agreement and peace, it is prepared to leave the question of sovereignty open, not to discuss the territory but to discuss the people--give the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el autonomy and give the Jews of Eretz Yisra'el security. I think that I have quoted myself verbatim.

Thus, on the basis of this clause and on the basis of clause 26 which provides that all these settlements can be discussed again at the end of 5 years, I agreed from the outset. But the question was a difficult one from an internal cabinet point of view, and this is true. It was difficult, and I was not sure whether a majority would favor such a proposal. I could not be sure. On the other hand, there were other proposals which were unacceptable to me. The problem that I faced was this: A situation might arise in which either my proposal would be rejected against this background, or another proposal opposing my view would be accepted. This is not a trivial matter. In such a case, in accordance with all parliamentary rules, the prime minister would have to resign and I did not wish to bring about a situation in which the government would fall. Because, had such a situation arisen then, as is usual, someone in whom the people had expressed no confidence might try through all kinds of ploys to establish a government. This would be incorrect, undemocratic, against the will of the people and I wished to avoid this. For this reason the decision, as it was made, was made at my proposal. You know that the term, the nature of future relations was accepted in accordance with my proposal by a large majority. This was the compromise, it had the majority and the government did not fall. In a state one sometimes has to have consideration for such events. Externally compromise is perfectly all right. Why?

Even though this is a comprehensive term it also includes sovereignty. What is the nature of future relations? It includes everything. The Americans were not satisfied. With all due respect, the State of Israel was not established to always satisfy the Americans. They were not satisfied. Now they are more satisfied, but they are not saying so. Let's be patient.

[Ahime'ir] In your answer just now, you hinted that about a month ago you weren't 100 percent sure of the integrity of the government and you feared the establishment of another government.

[Begin] I wasn't sure of the majority--either for a proposal that I would submit--and were it to fail I would have to resign--against this background--or that the proposal passed not have my agreement--in which case I would also have to resign. It is true that there was such a possibility. This has nothing to do with my illness. I have spoken about my illness. I was really ill then. What's wrong in being ill? I want to ask all of you. Have you never been ill? Mr Ahime'ir have you never had a cold? I had a more severe illness than a cold--that's true. I had a high fever and I was at home and the doctors treated me and I got better, thank God. It is very ugly to make a political game out of this. I want to tell you that I was told from a direct source that once, after all the officials had gone home, a chair was secretly removed after Levi Eshkol collapsed in his office. A few months later he passed away. This was kept a secret. I was one of those who knew this secret. Roosevelt--it is true that he was paralysed. Was there one Republican who said a word during four elections about his health? I don't have time now but I would read you the headlines that appeared in the U.S. press on this issue. Today a Jew told me that he was embarrassed. Golda Meir was also ashamed. She has reason to be.

[Anme'ir] Who is responsible for these headlines coming out in the world press?

[Begin] The Alinement medical--I mean political--committee.

[Raviv] Mr Prime Minister, to tie things to the beginning of your remarks: With the Arab strategy, in your opinion, wanting to cause Israel's destruction, and in a week in which two settlements are being removed--and there are no new settlements--in your assessment, has the time come to renew the settlement momentum?

[Begin] Settlement is an inalienable right. I said this to Carter and we will always stand by our opinion. If we have a difference of opinion with the United States on this issue we will continue to stand by our position. As for the removal of the settlement, this is a single instance and one thing is not connected with another. The government will make decisions. I will add no more. The government will discuss this and make decisions and we will act in accordance with them.

If you ask me--sorry that I am taking this role upon myself, after all, you are the questioners and I am the one who answers--if you ask me something about Lebanon--with you permission I would like to say something in English on Lebanon so that this can be picked up by other societies because of the very sorry state of the Christian minority there.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Begin we will get to Lebanon, as you requested, further on. I would like to ask you a question that touches upon the manner in which the cabinet is functioning. This week Minister Yig'al Horowitz resigned and then withdrew his resignation. Might the resignation and its withdrawal throw some light on the nature of relations within the government?

In this regard, you said in the Knesset this week--in fact, you revealed to the Knesset that the government intends to govern. Don't you think that this was a rather strange statement coming from the prime minister whose job it is to govern--and it is the government's job to govern?

[Begin] First of all you should know that I am not the originator of this. This is real plagiarism. I have to reveal the truth. Harold Wilson, the prime minister of Britain, had a dispute with part of his party. Once in a while he used to say in Parliament, the government will govern and no one saw anything strange in this. When an impression was created--how did you say this from time to time on the television and the radio--other interviewers, not necessarily you, Mr Agmon, others, Mr Ro'e on Almost Midnight [television news]--the government is not functioning--Professor Avineri [said this]--the government is not functioning. So it was my duty to tell the opposition and the public that the government would govern--especially to the opposition because in the past month it has tried to be like the government--to conduct peace negotiations with the enemy at a very low price--at a much lower price than that proposed by the government--of course the enemy was pleased, he wants this, he wants a lower price. So we said that the government would govern. It will conduct the affairs of the nation. It was I who gained the confidence of the public and not those who lost 22 seats out of 55. So the public expressed no confidence in them just over a year ago. They will not conduct things here. So I said--and this was the intention--the government will govern, both externally and domestically.

[Ahime'ir] Did the government not do this over the past year?

[Begin] It did. When you speak Hebrew and you want to state something that is true you have to use the future tense. You cannot say that the government governed. What does this mean? It means that it governed. You want to say something that will sink in. So, I said, know well, the government will govern. It not hand over the conduct of peace negotiations to Mr Shim'on Peres or to Mr Abba Eban or to Mr Yigal Allon. It will not hand over this function. It, the government, will fulfill this function all the way, with prudence, God willing, and with understanding. I also hope with good results. Mr Peres will not conduct the negotiations for us--with Husayn, with As-Sadat.

[Ahime'ir] Almost with Husayn.

[Begin] He wanted to meet with Husayn and I said no. He did not meet with him and I was right in saying no. And with respect to some document from the Socialist International which--within 24 hours the public learned--that Abba Eban wrote it. Have you heard anything like it? They are talking about a document of the Socialist International and Abba Eban reveals that he wrote it. So how can this be a document of the Socialist International? It became a laughing matter. Mr Abba Eban knows how to write. I know that. He also sent me his books. There is a lot to read, about me as well--not such pleasant things, but I forgive him.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, on 17 May this year, a year after the overthrow, you said on the television news that there had been some breakdowns in the government and that these breakdowns, you said then, would be repaired, you hoped. What has happened since then: A minister in the cabinet resigns and withdraws his resignation; another minister expresses dissatisfaction that his talks with the Egyptian leader are not being discussed; a third minister, the minister of energy, announces that he will not be responsible for the unloading of coal at Haifa port. One gains the impression, in view of this, that something has broken down in the government.

[Begin] You see, it was important to say that the government would govern. My dear friend, today the government is functioning. It also has difficulties. It also makes mistakes. Each of us makes mistakes, but you gave the example of Mr Horowitz's resignation. Is this the first such case in history? He submitted his resignation, he was convinced that he was right. I tried to influence him, I was unsuccessful. After he submitted his letter of resignation there were 48 hours according to law. I called him to me; I also called other ministers, we talked as friends and he informed me in a letter that he withdraws his letter of resignation. Isn't that nice. Very nice and friendly. It happens in all governments. It can happen.

The matter of the coal--this is a special thing. We are talking about environmental problems. Coal has to be brought from South Africa to Hadera. You know that this is a complex issue, so what is wrong if a minister says that he has a certain view. He is concerned about the environment in Israel. What is wrong with that? Other ministers have complaints. I want to tell you that the situation has been put right, although not completely. For the first 6 months that the government was in office this was a well functioning government. I am not exaggerating. No leaks. Not a word was leaked from the cabinet meetings. You could see this with the two correspondents on Fridays in the two midday papers. Their reports had no meat.

[Ram] Do they have meat now?

[Begin] Today they do--a lot of meat. Therefore, I said that there are mistakes and not everything has been put right yet; but a lot has been and we have to continue to put things right. Today I had the opportunity of making a certain decision as prime minister, and I made that decision, just as I swore allegiance in the Knesset to fulfill my functions with loyalty as prime minister. If God wills, this is how I will fulfill it, if the Lord grants me a long life.

[Ram] Perhaps you might leak to us what decision you took?

[Begin] If I were a releaser of leaks what could I say to ministers who leak?

[Raviv] Mr Prime Minister, let us be more concrete. Minister Yig'al Horowitz returned to the government after it was decided to cut 3 billion Israeli pounds from the budget, while there are ministers who strongly oppose the cut. Could you explain to us from where you believe that it will be possible to cut 3 billion pounds from the budget?

[Begin] Speaking concretely, I am unable to give a full answer to the question. I sat with the ministers and members of the Knesset Finance Committee who say that it is possible to cut approximately that amount. We will not cut on social welfare, we will not reduce child allowances nor will we cancel the subsidies keeping down the prices of basic goods required by the population at large.

[Raviv] What about the defense budget?

[Begin] We will check everything. A committee, to be set up by the Finance Committee, will examine things. The finance minister has agreed to this. We will cut the budget.

[Raviv] By 3 billion pounds?

[Begin] I cannot say with absolute certainty, but this is the aim. Therefore, Minister Horowitz could withdraw his resignation. His honor has not been tarnished. He has a view, he expressed it and carried it further by submitting his letter of resignation.

I believe that he could have achieved this aim without resigning but this, too, is usual in British governments--a minister submits his resignation, the prime minister speaks to his heart, he withdraws his resignation--gentlemen, this is part of the democratic process so please don't create the impression that something strange or unusual has happened here. This is part of democratic life.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, to what extent are you involved in economic affairs? Do you know how high the rate of inflation, the price rises and the wage increases will reach?

[Begin] First of all you have to know that I provide for a family, which means that I have to know economics.

[Ahime'ir] You are an economics minister?

[Begin] I am an economics minister. I provide for my wife. My salary has just been raised but all this refers to the gross--I don't know what the net is. What is the net?

[Raviv] Very little.

[Begin] Very little. Well, that's the rule in Israel and this has to be accepted. Let me tell you what is happening. In my opinion, in the economic sphere there have been many improvements in the situation. There are also many difficulties. We have not overcome them. Let me give you the following examples: We don't have even a hint of unemployment. You know that unemployment in Israel is a curse. It once brought about the famous demonstrations--labor and bread--in the development towns. This was a terrible thing. To this day these cries reverberate in my ears. Today we have 920 people seeking work and over 30,000 jobs which need to be filled. If we compare this situation in the small state of Israel, without natural resources, with the most industrialized countries in the world with millions of unemployed--tens of millions if we add up the countries--our situation is quite good.

[Ahime'ir] What about the price rises, Mr Prime Minister?

[Begin] I will give you several examples. Please take note: full employment, there is no unemployment, thank God. After 14 months. I remember the Alinement propaganda before the elections--if the Likud forms a government there will be mass unemployment. You remember this well. There is no unemployment. Exports have increased by 36 percent in the past 4 months compared with the same 4 months last year. This is very important. By the way, imports have also increased by over 200 million pounds and this is not good; of course. However, most of the increase is in defense imports. There is no choice, this is our life. On the other hand, civilian imports increased by only 21 million--almost nothing. Now, we have cut the deficit in the balance of payments by 757 million pounds in the past year. This is a very significant cut. We still have a deficit of 2.6 billion pounds--a serious deficit. I am telling you that in a few years this can be cut and almost abolished.

[Raviv] What about inflation, Mr Begin?

[Begin] Inflation is too high, there is no doubt. It is a danger and it has to be curbed. Therefore, I proposed that prices and taxes be frozen--if the prices and taxes are frozen then wages can be kept stable without having to raise them. Because, a wage increase is inflation. If you raise wages you increase production expenses. If you raise production expenses the prices rise. If the prices rise wage increases are demanded and we start again. Members of my generation remember what happened after World War II in Europe. You had to pay millions for a box of matches. This is very destructive.

We have not reached this point, we have not reached the situation of Latin America, but our inflation is too great. It should be reduced, and I promise you that my colleagues will do everything possible to bring about a reduction in inflation. I hope that they are successful. Here, I gave you some examples. Generally speaking, the situation is not one which can be called unacceptable. It is reasonable.

In the first year we have done a lot gentlemen--in the political, security and economic spheres. Remember the Litani operation. Compare the situation that exists today with the situation prior to the Litani operation--in northern Eretz Yisra'el and with respect to the Christians in southern Lebanon. Today the Christians in southern Lebanon are no longer in enclaves but have a long line along which they defend themselves. The tragedy is in northern Lebanon. With your permission I wish to appeal to the world, because the issue is close to our heart.

[Begin--in English] May I call upon all Christian nations to pay attention to this call of mine. The Christian minority in northern Lebanon faces the danger of a massacre. The Syrian Army, equipped with most modern artillery, Soviet supplied, and tanks with a range of nearly 44 km is attacking the Christian minority day in and day out, night in and night out. Now on the grounds of information I got today they face a massacre, annihilation, wiping out.

May I call upon you, help them, for God's sake. What is our era going to be? An era of massacre--repeated massacre--first the 6 million Jews who were massacred in Europe, you never helped them--you never came to their rescue even when we cried, we cried to you bomb the lines to Auschwitz, you didn't do anything to help them. Then there was a massacre in Biafra--nothing was done. Now is a massacre in Cambodia and Vietnam--nobody is doing anything and people have conscience, of course as I believe everybody of us. The first human right is to live and I tell you on behalf of the most intimate information, the Christian minority in northern Lebanon faces a massacre by the overwhelming forces of the Syrian occupation army. What does Syria have in common--to be in Lebanon with their occupation army. Let the Syrians leave Lebanon and let Lebanon be an independent state and live in peace with all countries. This is my urgent call to all free nations. Pay attention to what is going on in Lebanon. But first of all, perhaps, I speak English, France should take care of it because France was the patron, for generations, of the Maronites and during the colonial period knew how to use the Christians. Now the Christians are in deadly danger. But all the other nations should do the same so that we can save the people from that danger of complete annihilation. [end English]

[Ahime'ir] Without any connection, Mr Prime Minister, the past 2 weeks have been marred by the party battle here in Israel. Are you going to declare a cease-fire on this issue?

[Begin] Do we have to declare a cease-fire? We are not waging a war. I'll tell Mr Ahime'ir, I have never attacked but I have always responded to attacks. If we are not attacked we will not attack. If we are attacked we will respond. We will not ignore insults and attacks but we will not initiate them.

[Ram] Ya'aqov, I understand that our time is up. I would like to ask the prime minister one more question. In the past you said that you would serve as prime minister for one term of office only--that is 4 years, do you still say so?

[Begin] Yes sir. It is my desire to serve until the end of the present Knesset term--that is November 1981 or 1982--when were the elections?

[Ahime'ir] You were sworn in as prime minister on 21 June 1977.

[Begin] But according to law the term--since unscheduled elections took place in May the next elections will be regular--that is in November. Thus this Knesset will serve for an extra half year. I would like to end in November 1981 and start to write my book on the generation of destruction and revival. This will be a multivolume work, beginning with World War I, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, everything that happened in the two wars, all the wars in Eretz Yisra'el, the underground and so forth, and this, of course, requires a number of years of work. Therefore, while I said in the past that I wish to leave political life at the age of 70, I am changing a little and the age of 68 might be enough for me. I will soon be 65.

[All] May you live to be 120.

[Begin] Thank you, but it is too early, you will still have time to send flowers, I have about 3 years to go. I think that if I reach that point, and God willing--if no war breaks out before then, if we solve the problems of the housing shortage--47,000 families--as we promised, or if we solve most of it with the help of the Jewish people, and if we put some things right in other spheres--and we might bring peace closer, but first we have to prevent war--and if we solve the problem of poverty in Israel, I will quietly be able to go and begin to write the book and it might be an interesting book. If I am successful it will be an interesting book. I will send each of you a signed copy.

[Ahime'ir] A film might be made of it.

[Begin] They want to film my book, The Revolt. I spoke with the producer about this. I don't know. If they film The Revolt, we will see. That was an action book.

[Ram] You said you hope--if before then war does not break out. Can you not say that I hope or you are almost sure that peace will break out by then?

[Begin] I do hope so. I certainly hope that there will be peace by then. But the first thing that we took upon ourselves on the day that the government was formed was to prevent war. That is the first step. If God wills, if we are able to bring peace nearer, or make peace, we will be the happiest of people.

[Ahime'ir] Well, our time is up. At any rate, if peace breaks out....

[Begin] It would come at a good time--according to Jewish tradition all's well that ends well.

[Ahime'ir] Well, these memoirs will not be able to be written in that small settlement in northern Sinai where you wished to settle.

[Begin] Rosenbaum Street, No 1. [Begin's home in Tel Aviv] my friend.

[Ahime'ir] I thank you very much Mr Prime Minister, sir. I thank my colleagues Elimelekh Ram and Dan Raviv. Good night.

KNESSET REJECTS NO-CONFIDENCE PROPOSAL

TA261225Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] By a majority of votes the Knesset has rejected the proposal to express no-confidence in the government. The proposal was rejected by the 70 representatives of the coalition factions while the 35 members of the Alinement, Shelli and Hadash voted in favor. The three representatives of the Independent Liberals, the Citizens Rights Movement and Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el abstained. All the representatives of the coalition present in the Knesset hall voted with the government.

In the course of the announcements made by the factions, MAFDAL MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said that the no-confidence proposal had no basis. It is unreasonable to accuse the government of not pursuing peace, he said, pointing to the fact that the document submitted by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to his U.S. colleague includes even readiness to discuss a territorial compromise. He called on the Alinement's representatives not to descend to the level of RAKAH's and Shelli's members and not to use and follow their style. This gave rise to interjections on the part of Shelli MK Me'ir Pa'il. The Knesset chairman called him to order several times and even had to stop the debate for a short while.

Gid'on Hausner from the Independent Liberals said that the present time calls for mutual respect, openmindedness, candidness and thoughtfulness. The degrading internal quarrel in Israel has already brought about joy in Cairo and Damascus.

Kalman Kahana from Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el also expressed regret that the political debate the day before yesterday had not contributed toward calming and cooling the spirits and only increased the quarrelsome instinct.

CHRISTIANS SAID RESPONSIBLE FOR CLASHES WITH SYRIANS

TA270700Y Jerusalem POST in English 27 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that according to some reports the Christians initiated the clashes in Beirut when they sniped at the Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping force there. It was then that the Syrians replied with a heavy and well-placed artillery and tank barrage.

The Syrians are perceived in Jerusalem as seeking a way out of Lebanon. Weizman reported that Damascus is not happy with the developments and would have pulled its troops out if it had had a face-saving way of doing so.

Weizman's report explains Israel's restraint. Israel does not want war with Syria. But it is nevertheless committed to supporting the Christians and, according to foreign reports, has armed and trained Christian fighters.

Its statements, the sonic booms Kfir fighters made over Beirut, and messages sent through foreign countries contributed to a lull in the shooting between July 6 and 21, it was noted.

Weizman told the Knesset committee that Israel would like to see a 50,000-strong UN force in Lebanon replace the 30,000 to 40,000 Syrians. A UN force of this size could control things there, he said. He also expressed satisfaction with the situation in southern Lebanon following Israel's invasion. For four months there has been no shooting, he noted.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI SENDS CONDOLENCES TO BREZHNEV ON DEATH OF KULAKOV

LDT262001Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Department has reported that Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party [PDP], president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in a telegram addressed to His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has expressed his condolences and sympathy and those of the Afghanistan PDP to Brezhnev in connection with the death of Fedor Davidovich Kulakov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, member of the Politburo and deputy in the USSR Supreme Soviet.

DRA'S AMBASSADOR TO U.S. DEPARTS FOR WASHINGTON

LDT202346Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Nur Ahmad Nur, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's newly appointed ambassador to Washington, left for the United States at 0700 this morning to take up his post. Nur Ahmad Nur was seen off at Kubul's International Airport by certain cabinet members, the political deputy and assistant head of research in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the charge d'affaires and certain members of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, as well as by a number of friends.

PLANNING MINISTER KESHTMAND RETURNS FROM LIBYA

LDT200936Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Soltan Ali Keshtmand, minister of planning, who had led a delegation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DPA] on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of the government of that country, returned to the homeland this morning. During his stay in Libya the planning minister held discussions on questions related to expanding economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the DRA and Libya and signed agreements on economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Commenting on the visit, the planning minister said that it had been fruitful in (?strengthening relations) between the two countries, and he expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Libyan Government.

Keshtmand was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Nur Mohammad Jalili, director general of civil aviation and tourism, and high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Planning.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE INTERVIEWED ON PRC, SRV, USSR TIES

BK261059Y Delhi ISI in English 0834 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

["Text of 23 July interview given by External Affairs Minister Vajpayee to M.L. Katru of the STATESMAN]

[Text] Questions: One: The Indian position until recently has been that the Chinese must come down to "basics" before relations between the two countries can be normalised. Have you lately had any indication that Peking is prepared to discuss the basic issue, namely the border dispute?

Two: It has also been the Indian position that the Chinese must use normal diplomatic channels to initiate the process of negotiations. Indeed, beginning from the days of the Mao smile and right up to the initial phase of the Wang missions talks here, every effort was made to soft pedal such gestures. Have the Chinese made a direct approach, or are we guided by what others, including Romanian and Yugoslav leaders, may have told us about Chinese intentions? True also that Wang conveyed an invitation to you from the Chinese foreign minister but we had throughout maintained that the Wang mission was not an "official" mission [sentence as received]. Our position was that it was merely a good-will mission with very limited brief.

Three: The crux of the problem with China is delineation of the border and return by China of Indian territory. Has Peking given us any indication of what its plans are?

Answers: It has been our purpose and hope to seek an improvement of relations with China on the basis of the five principles. We want to build up beneficial bilateral relations with China as is appropriate between two large Asian neighbouring countries.

Contacts in diverse fields and other exchanges in various areas to the mutual benefit of our two peoples are taking place. On our part, we have encouraged or responded favorably to any suggestions relating to functional exchanges in the technical fields. We believe that the exchange of developmental experience in various fields between our two countries would be of great mutual interest and advantage.

Since the resumption of ambassadorial level relations in mid-1976, which it may be recalled was at our initiative, trade between the two countries is picking up. Various groups representing commercial interests or professional or technical experts have visited or are in the process of visiting China. Similar Chinese delegations have come to India, and only recently a delegation of Indian journalists has come back from China. The quality and number of such two-way exchanges contribute greatly to the growth of a realistic appreciation of conditions that prevail in each others' countries.

It goes without saying that complete normalisation of relations can occur if outstanding differences between India and China, including those relating to the border, are resolved. The border question, as you know, has a long history. But we are glad to note that, like us, the Chinese leaders have also stated that differences on the border should be settled peacefully and through negotiations. Such a mutually acceptable solution can only be on the basis of the five principles. The problem can only be discussed directly between the two sides. There is no need really for third party mediatory efforts. Since full diplomatic relations exist between the two countries, it was not unnatural to expect that any steps to improve bilateral relations would be taken through these channels. I think the Chinese side also appreciates this approach.

On the occasions of some high level visits f[illegible]reign countries to Peking, the Chinese leaders are understood to have expressed their desire to improve relations with India. We have noted and welcomed such statements. We believe we have taken concrete reciprocal measures to contribute to improving the atmosphere in relations between India and China.

Question four: The presence in India of the Dalai Lama has been a constant source of irritation to the Chinese. Would you be prepared to concede any Chinese demand for the Dalai Lama's extermment?

Answer: The question relating to the possibility of a request from China for the Dalai Lama's extermment from India is in the realm of pure hypothesis. You are aware of the circumstances in which he came to India. His stay in India is in keeping with our established policy on the grant of asylum, and it plays no part in political relations between India and China. We have many traditional and religious links with the Tibetan people, and the Dalai Lama is in India as our guest as a cultural and religious personage.

Question number five: The Chinese position on Kashmir, even though it does not materially change India's position in state [as received], has been a source of embarrassment. Would you ask [as received] the Chinese that their statements in support of the Pakistani claim constituted an unfriendly act and interference in the internal affairs of this country and in the affairs of the subcontinent? More so when India and Pakistan are committed to solve all outstanding problems bilaterally?

Question number six: Pakistan has ceded part of Kashmiri territory to China and just opened the Karakorum road passes through some of this territory. How do you propose to solve the problem? Desai has said that the issue would be taken up with the Chinese.

Question number seven: Have you sought any assurance from the Chinese that they will put an end to their support to insurrectionary movements in the country's eastern region?

Answer: Only last week we have reiterated to both China and Pakistan that India cannot acquiesce in the legal implications of the recently inaugurated road through the State of Jammu and Kashmir and that there can be no question of self-determination for an integral part of our country. In other words, we have made known both to China and Pakistan our view that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is a constituent part of India, including the portion occupied by Pakistan. I would not like to go into political issues which must be the subject of inter-governmental discussions.

Question eight: Do you see any problems rising on account of the anti-Vietnamese stance of the Peking government and our close ties with Hanoi?

Answer: Relations between India and Vietnam are close and friendly. We have admired the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against external aggression and domination. The prime minister of Vietnam visited India early this year, and there are regular contacts at various levels between our two countries. We are both developing and nonaligned nations, and it is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that cooperation between our two countries in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields has been expanding rapidly.

I have tried to clarify in all my dealing with my counterparts and in public that we do not regard our bilateral relations as something that should affect development of our relations with any other country. How the problems between the People's Republic of China and Vietnam are to be solved--we hope peacefully--is a matter solely for the two countries. We do not believe our friendly relations with Vietnam come in the way of our relations with China and vice versa.

The people of Indochina have undergone tremendous suffering and sacrifice. It is essential, therefore, that they be allowed to engage in the peaceful reconstruction of their national economies without any outside interference and their freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity respected.

Question number ten: What exactly are your expectations from your forthcoming triple tour of the Soviet Union, Japan and China?

Answer: In response to an invitation from Foreign Minister Gromyko, who was one of the first visitors since our new government assumed office, I propose to visit the USSR in the near future. Our relations are firmly established and have already demonstrated their resilience. The many-sided relations have gathered strength and such periodic exchanges can give a spur to the further improvement of mutually beneficial relations and cooperation. We are also preparing carefully for my visit to Japan and China. As for Japan, you would recall that the foreign minister of Japan visited India in July last, and that was the first visit of a high-level Japanese statesman after a gap of 7 years. On that occasion, reflecting the desire of both sides to intensify our bilateral relationship and cooperation, it was decided that annual consultations would take place at the level of foreign ministers. It is the fulfillment of this decision that I am going to visit Japan in August. Within the framework of our mutually felt desire to strengthen relations in all spheres as a contribution to the stability of Asia as a whole, I am looking forward to a wide ranging exchange of views with my Japanese counterpart.

As for my scheduled visit to China, which as you know is in response to an invitation extended by the foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, I am keenly looking forward to it. The visit would be the first such contact between our two countries after nearly 17 years which for their overwhelming portion [as received] recorded a rapid downturn in relations between India and China. While the visit would symbolise the desire of the Government of India to seek further improvements in our relations, I am naturally hoping that it would contribute towards the taking of initial steps to the solution of outstanding differences between India and China.

NONALINED NATIONS ASKED TO SETTLE DISPUTES BY CONSENSUS

BK241022Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has called for the evolving of a more precise code of conduct for the members of the nonalined movement. In an interview with the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said: Differences among nations which sometimes lead to conflict are disturbing. These should be solved through a consensus. This could be achieved by adopting a positive approach and strengthening unity rather than emphasizing the points of differences.

Mr Vajpayee said nonalinement should be genuine with a clear commitment to the ideals of peace and international cooperation and justice. The independence of the nonalined nations cannot be achieved without economic independence. The developed nations should, therefore, be further persuaded to assist developing countries.

Mr Vajpayee suggested more effective cooperation among the nonalined nations for a collective self-confidence and independence.

The external affairs minister arrived in Belgrade yesterday evening to lead the Indian delegation to the ministerial conference beginning tomorrow.

DESAI OUTLINES GOVERNMENT POLICY ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

BK261621Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that our nuclear policy does not debar blasts for engineering purposes such as mining and oil exploration. Drawing a distinction between a nuclear blast and a nuclear explosion, Mr Desai said we will not go in for Pokhran [site of India's first nuclear test] explosions. He was replying to a half hour discussion in the Lok Sabha today on a bar on nuclear explosions raised by Mr Samar Guha, Janata.

Mr Desai asserted there was no question of not using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes or stopping nuclear research; But an explosion is not necessary for these purposes. Mr Desai reiterated that this policy is not new and has been followed since the days of Mr Jawaharlal Nehru. He asserted that India will not submit to any outside pressure while pursuing this policy. Mr Desai said that the Pokhran explosion was for political purposes. It had created all the troubles without gaining anything. It had left behind plutonium in much larger quantity than the device planted on Nanda Devi. The prime minister said he is trying to find out how much [harm] it can cause to the environment. Mr Desai said the Pikhran explosion had created suspicion in the minds of certain countries about its real purpose. That is the reason why they had been insisting on India signing the nonproliferation treaty. He said India will not sign such a treaty unless all other nuclear powers agree to do so. It is a matter of national honor, he added.

Denying that it was a moral posture on his part not to allow explosions, Mr Desai said he is convinced fully that these explosions are not necessary to exploit nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In reply to a question, Mr Desai said he is prepared to discuss this issue with any scientist. But the decision has to be taken by the government. Such decisions cannot be left to scientists alone, he added. He also made it clear that the decision of the present government cannot be binding on any future government. Even if we tried to do so, it will be futile, he added.

During the discussion, members stressed the need for self-reliance in nuclear technology. The policy should not hamper research to harness our resources. Mr Desai assured the house that India is self-reliant to a great extent in this field. The recent difficulties are helping us to become more self-reliant, he added.

DESAI COMMENTS ON PLANS TO LAUNCH INDIA'S 2D SATELLITE

BK260928Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The exact date of launching India's second satellite will be fixed during the next joint meeting of Indian and Soviet scientists in September this year. This was stated by the prime minister in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr Morarji Desai said there is no delay in launching the satellite. The primary objective of the satellite for earth observation is to conduct remote sensing observations over Indian territory with the aid of a television camera and microwave radio meters installed in the satellite.

The house was informed that the imagery thus obtained will provide information relating to forestry, hydrology, water resources, snow covers, snow melting and large water and land masses.

DEATH TOLL IN FLOODS REACHES 189; 10 MILLION AFFECTED

BK261001Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

[Text] One hundred and eighty-nine persons are reported killed so far in the current spell of floods in different states. About 10 million were affected.

In Uttar Pradesh, the death toll is reported to have risen to 110. About 2 million persons in over 7,200 villages are facing the fury of the floodwaters. Rivulets and rivers in the eastern parts of the state continue to flow above the red mark. The army has been alerted to standby for help in Gonda District.

In North Bihar, 25 persons are reported killed in the floodhit areas. Over 4 million persons have been affected in more than 2,400 villages. Rescue and relief operations continue on a war footing. Steps have been taken to prevent the outbreak of cholera.

Incessant rains in seven districts of Rajasthan have so far claimed 44 lives. According to reports from Chandigarh, four persons were killed in Mohindergarh District of Haryana following heavy rains in the last few days.

In Maharashtra, at least seven persons are feared to have been washed away and thousands of people marooned by the floods in Akola District.

PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON MARCH 1977 POLL

BK251030Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A white paper on the conduct of general elections held on March 7, 1977 released by the government shows that preparations to manage the polls in favor of the ruling party had started long before the election. Although the 1973 constitution guaranteed an independent status to the election commission and invested it with vast powers, it was decided as early as November 1974 to keep the commission under the control of the government. The former prime minister's Secretariat--run by government officials, paid by public funds--was fully involved in the planning for perpetuation of the regime through election management. The administrative machinery was utilized at all levels to insure the success of the people's party at the polls.

The white paper, copiously supported with original documents, includes a blueprint for rigging the elections prepared by Mr Bhutto himself as early as April 1976. The document, which Mr Bhutto described as a model plan, was based on the mobilization of the district administration as an electoral instrument of the ruling party. The model plan, though totalitarian and formidable, still seems to have left some doubt lurking in Mr Bhutto's mind. Within a week he called for the preparation of a do or die plan of action leaving nothing to chance. A detailed working plan was prepared by Mr Bhutto's information adviser. Its striking feature was the infiltration of surrogates in the event of the opposition boycotting the elections in order to set up bogus operation in the legislatures. The plan also suggested the drawing up of lists of sensitive constituencies and of persons who must not be allowed to be elected. The former prime minister's special secretary improved upon the plan. He recommended that the credibility of the elections would be better insured if certain surrogate opposition parties remained in the field to generate appearance but (?controlled) seats in the elections to make it appear well contested.

The idea was approved by Mr Bhutto. The special secretary's note also reveals that nearly a year before the country went to the polls, the provincial governments were already busy making lists of officials for the selection of presiding and polling officers. Mr Bhutto had directed that the work of weeding out the undesirable and undependable officials should be completed by September 1976.

Another recommendation that found favor with Mr Bhutto related to certain opposition candidates who he said should not get elected at any cost.

The white paper says the involvement of the administration in the ruling party's election campaign was the linchpin of all the plans and schemes prepared by Mr Bhutto and his lieutenants in the establishment. Long before these plans for election management were prepared, the path for their execution had begun to be smoothed by arrangements to emasculate the election commission. In a statement to the (?FIA) after his removal from office, a former cabinet secretary confirmed that the instructions for strict control of the election commission were communicated to him by Mr Bhutto.

The white paper illustrates several cases showing utter helplessness of the commission. It also shows how several constituencies were changed and new ones created to suit the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] candidates. The white paper also lists the gross misuse of government transport for the election campaign of Mr Bhutto and his partymen.

The white paper makes a mention of the sources of the vast funds accumulated by the people's party including the diversion of rupees 90.2 million from the state secret service fund. The resources of the party were augmented with considerable cash inflows including donations by a foreign head of state amounting to rupees 20 to 30 million. (?Clues) to a million-dollar election fund held abroad have also been indicated.

Considerable evidence has been produced in the white paper to show recourse to force and other unlawful means to secure the uncontested return of PPP signatories. Mr Bhutto's own uncontested election appears dubious in the light of the evidence produced. False affidavits were prepared with the help of its ex-attorney general and its ex-advocate general of Sind right in the Sind High Court premises to mislead the election commission and the facts leading to the abduction of Mr Jan Mohammad Abbasi to prevent him from filing his nomination papers to oppose Mr Bhutto in Larkana 1 constituency.

The white paper, which runs into 405 printed pages divided into 10 chapters, is supported with photostats of over 1,000 pages of original documents including those signed or circulated by the former prime minister.

The commission appointed by the CMLA [Chief Martial Law Administrator] to investigate the conduct of elections has brought to light cases of rigging elections and manipulation of results. In the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Baluchistan, serious irregularities in securing unopposed returns have come to light. Some details of the last minute election management in Karachi and the interior of Sind have also been brought to light in the findings of the enquiry committee. In respect of the Punjab, the CMLA's enquiry committee, after recording the evidence of over 200 persons, has come to the conclusion that the elections were rigged at the behest of the former prime minister, the governor and the chief minister.

The white paper refers to the happenings during the 4 critical months after March 8, 1977 when a spontaneous movement against the rigging of the elections had started. After the elections, when the crowds took to the streets in protest against the rigging, experts of manipulating votes were replaced with those specially qualified for repressive measures. The use of force was accompanied with the charge that the movement had been inspired and financed by one or more foreign powers interested in destroying Pakistan. However, no evidence was offered. The charge that the movement was a conspiracy by the right to subvert the revolutionary changes of which Mr Bhutto was committed was belied by the involvement of industrial labor during the later phases of the movement. In fact, Mr Bhutto's decision to hand over the three biggest cities to martial law came when a countrywide general strike call, supported by the working class, was about to materialize.

The white paper also refers to the dialog between Mr Bhutto and the opposition and Mr Bhutto's decision to hold a referendum on whether he should continue as the prime minister. The white paper says possibly the insistence of the armed forces upon a political solution played a part in dissuading Mr Bhutto from going ahead with the referendum proposal and compelled him to resume negotiations with the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance]. The dilatory proceeding of the negotiations, however, appeared to have been part of an agreed strategy designed to buy time. At the same time, preparations were made for the creation of chaotic conditions that could only lead to some kind of a civil war.

HAQ SENDS MESSAGE TO NONALINED CONFERENCE

BK260917Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that Pakistan's decision to participate in the foreign ministers conference of nonalined countries is an expression of its total solidarity with the cause of the movement.

In a message to the 5-day conference, which opened in Belgrade yesterday, he said Pakistan was a nonalined country in spirit and substance of its foreign policy. The message, on the occasion of the conference's decision to grant guest status to Pakistan, was handed over to the Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, who is also the chairman of the conference, by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. It was released as a document of the conference.

GOVERNMENT WANTS TO BUY 1 MILLION TONS OF INDIAN WHEAT

BK261624Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan is understood to have sounded India for the supply of a large quantity of wheat. While no direct approach has been made to India, it is believed Pakistan would like to have about 1 million tons from this country.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that India is having a big wheat surplus and has already exported nearly 2 million tons.

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